

Lab Exercise 4 - Insect preparation and identification

Introduction

In today's exercise, you will bring typical insect specimens that you have collected to the laboratory for examination and comment by your laboratory instructors. Make sure that the specimens are as well prepared as you can make them and that they are properly labeled.

Insects can be relatively easily classified into major groups- orders- with the use of a biological key such as that found in Bland and Jacques. With practice, you can also key insects to the family level. Today you will practice identifications of insects in our collection and of your own specimens.

Activity 1- discussing specimens with your instructors

Show your specimens to your instructor for comment.

How many specimens did you bring to the laboratory for comment? _____

Notes from discussion with your instructors

Activity 2- Identification to order level

Keying six specimens- Complete an identification to order level for three insects from your collection and three insects on display. Try to find insects that differ from each other in overall form. If you don't have three insects available, consult your instructor. For each specimen, write down the list of key numbers that you used in the identification, the name of the order to which the specimen belongs. When you are finished, show your results to your instructor and verify your identification. Then write a brief description of members of that order (# species, habitats found, overall body form), based on the description in Bland and Jacques.

Specimen 1: Collecting locality _____ **Collector** _____

Order _____

Key couplets- _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____,
_____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____,
_____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____,

Brief description

Specimen 2: Collecting locality _____ **Collector** _____

Order _____

Key couplets- _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____,
_____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____,
_____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____,

Brief description

Specimen 3: Collecting locality _____ **Collector** _____

Order _____

Key couplets- _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____,
_____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____,
_____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____,

Brief description

Specimen 4 Collecting locality _____ **Collector** _____

Order _____

Key couplets- _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____,
_____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____,
_____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____,

Brief description

Specimen 5: Collecting locality _____ **Collector** _____

Order _____

Key couplets- _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____,
_____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____,
_____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____,

Brief description

Specimen 6: Collecting locality _____ **Collector** _____

Order _____

Key couplets- _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____,
_____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____,
_____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____,

Brief description