



The glowworm

Mississippi State
UNIVERSITY
Extension
SERVICE

3 May 2005

Volume XIII No. 5

The year seems to be flying by and there is still so much to do before 4-H Club Congress and Project Achievement days, not to mention getting ready for Entomology camp, WOW!! Now is also prime time to work on butterfly gardening projects. It's already a little late to plant seeds, but sets in May will still flower in plenty of time to be very attractive to butterflies. So let's all get up, get out, and get busy while it is still cool enough to work in the garden. Don't forget to plant some herbs and tomatoes, as well. Collecting is also good now, so there's a lot to do.

I found this short exert in 'Killer Plants' recently and thought it would be good to share with Glowworm readers. Since milkweed is such an integral part of butterfly gardening and butterfly lore, I thought it might be good to have a little history. **Linnaeus named the milkweeds, *Asclepias*, in honor of the Greek god of medicine, Aesculapius.**

Milkweeds contain toxic cardioactive glycosides. At one time, milkweeds were used medicinally for pleurisy, pneumonia, and fevers.



Orange Glory Flower *Asclepias tuberosa*— Butterflies can't resist the bright color and sweet nectar of this North American native plant. Orange flower clusters top 15-24" stems in mid to late summer. Great for fresh or dried bouquets. Flourishes under drought conditions

Aesculapius may or may not have been a real person. According to the *Dictionary of Greek and Roman Biography and Mythology* (1902), "The descendents of Aesculapius were called by the patronymic name *Asclepiadae*.... But the *Asclepiadae* were also regarded as an order or caste of priests, and for a long period the practice of medicine was intimately connected with religion."

In later years, Asclepiades was "the name of several physicians, some of whom probably assumed this appellation...in allusion to the ancient family." One of the more colorful of these physicians was Asclepiades Bithynus who lived in the first century BCE. His biography in the *Dictionary* states, "...he first came to Rome as a teacher of rhetoric, and that it was in consequence of his not being successful in this profession, he turned his attention to the study of medicine."

Asclepiades Bithynus was a popular physician who believed health came from diet, exercise, bathing, and liberal use of wine. The followers of Hippocrates, the father of medicine, said Asclepiades was ignorant.

Pliny the Elder wrote, "Asclepiades (physician of Bithynia) has a very great reputation for the following reasons: he founded a new school of medicine; despised the ambassadors and promises of King Mithridates; discovered a means by which wine might cure the sick; brought a man back from the grave and saved him. But, most of all, he is renown because he made a bet with Fortune that he should not be considered a doctor if ever he himself should be ill in any way, and he won his bet because he lost his life as a very old man by falling down stairs." (*Natural History*, Book VII, pre-79 CE, trans. John Healy

Announcements: Contest time and camp deadlines are quickly approaching, so I want to review some of the guidelines for participating in various 4-H Entomology events for this year.

A. Contests

1. Judging and ID for Club Congress and Project Achievement Days: come prepared to answer questions from the study sheets and to identify, pin and label insects correctly. Study sheets are available in the back of the 4-H Entomology Manual and online.

2. Visual Presentations: We accept (and encourage) powerpoint presentations for visuals in entomology (both juniors and seniors). Requirements: we need to know before hand so a projector and laptop can be made available. Simply bring your presentation on a USB power stick or CD. I've included in this Gloworm a few 'title ideas' for visuals. Remember not many 4-Hers participate in entomology visuals, so here is an opportunity.

3. Linnaean Games Questions for the 2005 contests are available on the 4-H Entomology WEBSITE: <http://www.msstate.edu/Entomology/4-H/LINNAEAN.html> or via email upon request to mikew@ext.msstate.edu. In order to qualify for 2005 competition, each team should submit a minimum of 25 questions prior to each contest. Questions may be taken from the **Practical Entomologist**, by Rick Imes or the 4-H Entomology Manual. Anybody may submit questions and it is to the advantage of Linnaean Teams to send in more than the 25 minimum. These questions will be held and used for the 2006 question booklet.

B. The new WEB pages for 2004 Entomology participants are up and you are invited to check them out at http://msucares.com/4h_Youth/4hentomology/index.html. Please note there are opportunities, for a number of contests were uncontested in 2004

C. 1st Camp deadline is May 15th and a form is attached to this letter. Get your registration in. A number of folks have, already. Note to teachers: we will give Continuing Education Units for camp!

Happy Buggin'

Michael R. Williams, PhD
Extension Entomologist

Ideas for visual presentations:

A bugs eye view - discuss the eye of an insect and how it uses its various senses to find food and carry on its life.

The fire ant Kingdom - discuss the make up of a fire ant mound, the caste system, the size of the mound and other aspects of the colony.

No horsing around with flies - Horsefly life cycle

Antlions - habitat and lifecycle

The moon's Luna phase - Luna moths and their life cycle

I smell you!!!! - a discussion of insect pheromones

Using some of the key words in the above titles, you should be able to find enough information to give a *GOOD* visual presentation.

**ATTENTION: YOUNG PEOPLE –
TEACHERS – PARENTS ALL WHO ARE INTERESTED IN ENTOMOLOGY!!!!**
THE MISSISSIPPI STATE ENTOMOLOGY DEPARTMENT PRESENTS:
Entomology Camp #1 on June 19-23 – Wood Institute - Mathiston
Entomology Camp #2 – July 17-21 - Kings Arrow Ranch –Lumberton

This camp is for **adults and youth** (over age 10) who want to learn about insects from experts. The camp will be taught by professors from the Entomology Department at Mississippi State, and will be educational and fun!!!!

- _ Learn how to collect, identify, and preserve insects!
- _ Learn about unique critters you've never seen, yet they live all around you!
- _ Make an insect collection with help from the experts!

Adults are encouraged to enroll for the camp!!! Out of state campers are also welcome!!!!!!
Enrollment is limited and will be on a first come basis.

Mail individual applications along with **\$50.00 deposit** to reserve your place to:

Entomology Camp
MSU Entomology Department
Box 9775
Mississippi State, MS 39762

5 day Entomology Camp costs : \$150.00

Charges include room/board, t-shirt and miscellaneous supplies - deposit is not refundable after May 1, 2005 for camp #1 and June 15, 2005 for camp #2, deposit is applied to camp costs.

I will be attending CAMP Session #_____. Indicate 1 or 2, please!

Indicate t-shirt size: Small _____ Medium _____ Large _____ XL _____ Other _____
All shirt sizes are measured in adult sizes, the vendor does not handle children's sizes

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ County: _____ Age: _____ Gender: _____

Telephone _____ email _____

email address is very helpful in quick communication

4-H rules and guidelines apply.

Please submit a **separate copy of this form for each camper** - be sure to indicate the session the camper will be attending.

Certification of health is required - so camp physicals are in order