



## *The glowworm*

1 October 2006

Volume XIV No. 9

### What Has Feathers and is Not a Bird?

Why a plume moth, of course. The diversity in the insect world is truly remarkable. At Entomology Camp we typically discourage collecting "micro" moths since most campers have difficulty pinning them. However, the small (around 15mm, or  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch, wing span) plume moths (Pterophoridae) are worthy of a closer look. In fact, they may be an excellent example of microLepidoptera to include in your collection. In addition to the places you traditionally find moths, look for them in the early evening as well as in bathroom windows.

Plume moths are slender moths with narrow gray to brown or white wings composed of up to 24 parallel feather-like structures. Plume moths stack their wings in such a fashion that they resemble the letter "T." They also have slender bodies and relatively long legs with spines at the joints.

Their life begins with eggs typically deposited singly in different places on plants but frequently on newly formed flowers or on the underside of leaves. After 2-3 weeks they hatch and the young larvae are typically leafminers and rollers, later burrowing into the stem, petioles, flowers, or seed pods. The larvae develop through four instars over the next 3-5 weeks. Pupae commonly hang upside down from the plant. The weak-flying adults remain near their host plant. The plume moth is not well adapted to hibernation and overwinters as an adult.

Larvae of various plume moths are agricultural pests of grapes, artichokes and ornamentals. But some have been used as biological control agents against invasive plant species. There are 154 described species in North America, north of Mexico. A website that provides nice images of North American species is:

<http://www.pterophoridae.com/>

Dr. John Guyton

Kudos to Savannah!



Last week, I opened up Landmarks Magazine (online at MSUCares.com) and saw a picture of Champion Bugger, Savannah Duckworth. According to the article, Savannah was part of an award-winning group of 4-Her's that starred in an original play to promote literacy. The play, "Sarah and the Magical Mix Up" was written by an MSU 4-H agent. The play's participants were recognized with Congressional Awards, the highest award Congress bestows on young Americans. Savannah is a currently a student at Mississippi State University. Congratulations!

Fun facts..

Paper wasps are those larger wasps that building the umbel shaped nests near the eaves or overhangs of homes. In preparing an article on these wasps, I came across some interest history of this genus. Apparently anthropologists have discovered a small group of Chuh Indians, descendants of the Myans, living in Guatemala that collect paper wasp nests and eat the pupae. Anyone that has been stung by these formidable wasps knows there has to be a good reason to rob a paper wasp nest! This tribe believed that consuming the young of these wasps will endow you with children with large eyes like those on the adults.



Dr. David Held and Dr. John Guyton

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**ATTENTION: YOUNG PEOPLE –TEACHERS – PARENTS  
ALL WHO ARE INTERESTED IN ENTOMOLOGY!!!!**

THE MISSISSIPPI STATE ENTOMOLOGY DEPARTMENT PRESENTS ENTOMOLOGY CAMP:

**Camp #1: June 17–21 – Plymouth Bluff Environmental Camp, Columbus**

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!  
**4-H rules and guidelines apply.**

**Camp #2: July 15–19 –Plymouth Bluff Environmental Camp, Columbus**

This camp is for **adults** (teachers, college students, youth leaders) that are looking for a unique learning experience. The camp will be also be taught by professors from the Entomology Department at Mississippi State, but will be available for college credit at Mississippi State University or CEU credits for teachers! This camp will include:

- Lecture and field collecting components that cover ecology, behavior, and taxonomy of insects
- Field identification and use of keys for family level identification of pinned specimens
- Field collecting methods

**Mississippi State University  
4-H Entomology Camp Registration Form**

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 \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in:  CEUs or  credit hours.

For adults attending Camp #2, please check the appropriate box above if you need CEU credits or wish to take the course for credit.

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**

Mail individual applications along with **\$60.00 deposit** to reserve your place to:

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

Charges include room/board, t-shirt and miscellaneous supplies. Pins and insect boxes can be made available for an additional cost. Deposit is not refundable after May 1, 2007 for camp #1 and June 15, 2007 for camp #2, deposit is applied to camp costs.

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**Enroll now for either camp!! Out of state campers are welcome!!!!  
Enrollment is limited and will be on a first come basis.**