



The glowworm



June 30, 2006

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Insects as Pets (not pests!)

Walking into the office today, I got a rare treat. Like any other day, as I made my way toward the front door I surveyed the ground near the base of three large security lights. Today was different because I found a stranded scarab- the ten-lined June bug (*Polyphylla decemlineata*). We see this species on the sheets almost every year at Camp. I am inordinately fond of this species because of its ability to hiss! Yes, hiss. It can hiss as well if not better than those large disgusting roaches some of you have. But not all June bugs can hiss. Furthermore, a brief literature search I did last year revealed little information on "hissing" among scarabs at all.

This brings me to the final point of this section-Insects as pets at Camp. Dr. John and I really wanted campers to collect pets and take some time to observe their behavior. Dr. John reminisced recently about a katydid that sang in the lab at a past Camp. This was a hit at the first Camp when we had an emerging cicada, a cat spider, a big-eyed click beetle, and several caterpillars as pets. Having insect pets at Camp is a great way to expose campers to insect behavior. Observations on behavior are excellent ways to hone your field identification skills and also help with retention of knowledge. If you have observed insects behaving then they still have "life" in your mind when you see them on the pin. For second Camp, I will bring some clear plastic boxes for observing our pets. I think this will be a rewarding way to deepen your Camp experience and appreciation for insects.

Dr. David

First Camp Highlights

Website of images up and available. Dr. Tim Groman, father of Bug-Camper Anna, has already posted all of the images from the first Entomology Camp. Type www.bugcamp.org into your web browser to view photos from the first Camp. You may be surprised at what events were captured on film.

Melcoptera is victorius in the Camp Linnaean Games competition. We had a great double elimination competition at Camp. Teams named the Honeybees, Killers, Melcoptera, and Ladybugs competed but Melcoptera won in the end. Congratulations to team members: Tori, Patricia, Jason, and Tyler!

Ticks, Ticks, Ticks! While at Camp the state Medical Entomologist was also at Wall Doxey sampling ticks to determine the presence of tick-borne diseases in field populations. Dr. Jerome Goddard has said that Wall Doxey State Park is perhaps the "tickiest" place in Mississippi! Some campers now know this firsthand.

Research Project. At First Camp, a team of campers and adult leaders conducted a research on biting horse and deer flies. Last year at the Mathiston Camp, I demonstrated that attractiveness of blue pots painted with stick trap for trapping deer flies (Diptera: Tabanidae: *Chrsyops* spp.). This year, we took it a bit further. We trapped flies in different habitats. I would like to repeat this at the second Camp and then publish the data in an upcoming volume of the Gloworm.

GIS makes collecting easier! At first Camp, Dr. John Giesemann and Ms. Karen introduced groups to GIS and the usefulness of latitude and longitude information for insect collecting. By having coordinates for some specimens, we were able to tell campers where they could find unique specimens and extra orders that they had not collected. For example, since I have been coming to camp I had not seen anyone report the collection of a scorpionlfy (Order: Mecoptera). However, when a male scorpionfly was collected, other campers were able to go back to that area and collect using coordinates provided. Keep collecting and getting coordinates so we can add to our statewide database!

Thank you to everyone that attended and participated in camp. The campers and adult leaders make each camp unique. We appreciate your support, leadership, and cooperation at Camp. We could not do all the fun activities at Camp without the interaction and support of the adult leaders.

**ATTENTION: YOUNG PEOPLE –
TEACHERS – PARENTS ALL WHO ARE INTERESTED IN ENTOMOLOGY!!!!**
THE MISSISSIPPI STATE ENTOMOLOGY DEPARTMENT PRESENTS:
Entomology Camp #2 – July 16-20 –Christian Service Camp, Newton

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 **\$60.00 deposit** to reserve your place to:

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

5 day Entomology Camp costs: \$160.00

Costs include room/board, t-shirt and miscellaneous supplies - deposit is not refundable after May 1, 2006 for camp #1 and June 15, 2006 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

2006 4-H Entomology Calendar

15 July Linnaean Superbowl

Jackson Horse Show

16 - 20 July Entomology Camp

Mississippi Christian Services Camp, Newton, MS

18 August BugFest

Crosby Arboretum, Picayune

4-8 pm

Call Crosby Arboretum (601-799-2311) for details and to make reservations

Also coming in August...

Another adult Entomology Camp!