

Entomology 307 - Lab

The thrust of the laboratory periods in Entomology 307 is to make an insect collection with specimens identified to the **Family** level (insect family names end in “idae”). You will be provided with most all of the equipment necessary to collect, mount and store your specimens. Approximately the first 7-8 laboratory periods will be utilized for local field trips to varied areas of entomological interest. The laboratory periods in the last portion of the semester will be used to key out (identify), label and organize your collection according to professional standards.

Grading of the Insect Collection

The grade that you receive will be based on the diversity of insects that you turn in. The greater the number of **Orders and Families** represented, the higher your grade. Insect Order names typically end in “ptera”, which describes which refers to the condition of the wing. Lepidoptera, for example refers to the Order containing the butterflies and moths which all have scaly wings. An insect family is a latinized term that ends in “idae”. So, Muscidae refers to a family of flies known as “house flies”. Calliphoridae refers to a groups known as the green-bottle flies and so on..The more collecting techniques that you utilize, the greater will be your diversity. 250 points (maximum) will be awarded for taxa in the collection (computed as 2 points per Order up to 15 Orders; 3 points for each additional insect Order; 4 points for each insect Family correctly identified. Up to 10 additional points may be used for non-insect arthropods counting 2 points per species.

Example of how points are earned:

Order		Family
Coleoptera points (2)	+	Scarabaeidae (scarabs) (4) = 6 points
Coleoptera points (0)	+	Coccinellidae (lady-birds) (4) = 4 points

Thus, a single specimen will count for the Order and for the Family. After the Order (and Family) are represented once you would receive no additional points for duplicate specimens. However, see comment on "diversity" below.

Any stage of an insect's life history can be used for the collection, provided the specimen is properly identified, preserved or mounted.

Forty (40) points (maximum) is based on an evaluation of the collection. Number of techniques used, neatness in arrangement, quality of the specimens, number of specimens, diversity of

specimens within a family, and number of errors in identification will be considered. Thus, the total maximum number of points available will be 300 (250 + 10 + 40)

Please consult **Chapter 47, "Collecting and Preservation"** in your textbook for specific techniques.

The collection is due at the last laboratory period.

Final Course Grade

Your lab grade will be determined on a % basis (90-80-70-60) and is independent of your lecture grade. For example, to receive an A in the lab you would need a minimum of 270 points (90% of 300 available). For a B grade, it would be 240 points and so on.