

InvertNet and Education/Outreach: The UW-Madison Insect Research Collection

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InvertNet Rationale

- vast majority of specimens in U.S. collections are invertebrates
 - primarily insects and related arthropods
 - less than 5% available online
 - only label data usually provided
- most invertebrate biodiversity research is specimen-based
 - all knowledge of many species is embodied in collections
- existing digitization methods are inadequate
 - slow and expensive (\$1+ per specimen)
 - risk of damage to specimens from handling



InvertNet and Education/Outreach at the UW-Madison

Education (undergraduate & graduate)

- F.I.G. Program
- ZOL 405: Museum Studies
- ENT 468: Studies in Field Entomology
- ENT 701: Advanced Taxonomy Series

Outreach (on/off campus, in/outside immediate community)

- WIRC
- Insect Ambassadors

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Education: UW-Madison

F.I.G. Program

- First-Year Interest Groups designed to help 1st year students make transition to UW-Madison, academically & socially. FIG is “learning community” *ca.* 20 students enrolled in a cluster of classes together. Courses in our FIG are linked by a common theme: Biodiversity.
- **ZOL 101/102:** Animal Biology/Animal Biology Lab
- **ENT 201:** Insects and Human Culture - a Survey Course in Entomology
- **ENT 375:** Special Topics. Insect Biodiversity: Science and Society (faculty teaching this main seminar course helps students discover the interdisciplinary connections between and among the classes)



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Education: UW-Madison

ZOL 405: Museum Studies

- Student Internship program in the WIRC



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Education: UW-Madison

ENT 468: Studies in Field Entomology

- “Capstone” course for entomology undergraduate majors



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Education: UW-Madison

ENT 701: Advanced Taxonomy Series

- Student introduction to working in collection
- Student exploration (diversity & data mining)
- of assigned taxa



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Outreach

WIRC

- Campus Outreach Programs
 - College for Kids Program
 - Movin' Kinds
 - Saturday Enrichment Program
 - Summer Science
- Science Olympiad (Entomology)
- WSST (Wisconsin Society of Science Teachers)
- ECN (Entomological Collections Network)
- SPNHC (Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections)



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Outreach

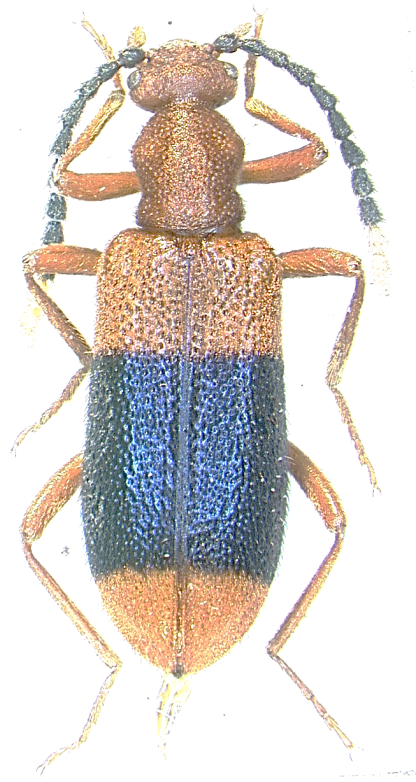
Insect Ambassadors

<http://labs.russell.wisc.edu/insectambassadors/>



Dear Mike and Allison,
Thank you for coming
to our School. I Learned
A LOT! it was sooo cool!
I Loved Holding the Hissing
cockroach and seeing the
manduca moth and seeing
the walking stick. I Learn-
ed that insects have 3
body parts. sincerely,
Justin





Department of
Entomology

