

Out of the Net and Into the Museum:

Ethics of Collecting and the Adventure of 60,000 Lifetimes



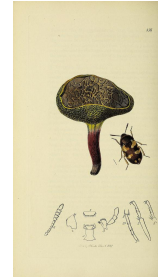
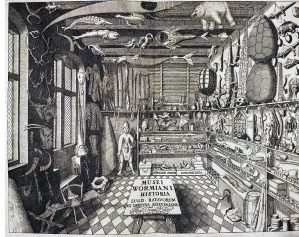
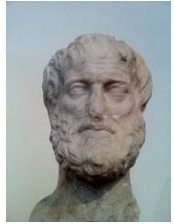
Emily L. Sandall

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But no pursuit at Cambridge was followed with nearly so much eagerness or gave me so much pleasure as collecting beetles. It was the mere passion for collecting; for I did not dissect them, and rarely compared their external characters with published descriptions, but got them named anyhow.

-Charles Darwin, 1887

Timeline



330
BC

Pre-Enlightenment

1600s

1700s

1800s

1900s

2018
AD

VIRTUE ETHICS

EXPLORATION ETHICS

CONSERVATION ETHICS

Aristotle [Image by Freireke \(CC BY-NC 2.0\)](#), Medieval Butterfly Image in Public Domain by Nazari (Public Domain). Antenna [Image by Biodiversity Heritage Library \(CC BY 2.0\)](#), Beetle [Image \(CC BY 2.0\) by Biodiversity Heritage Library](#), Beatty image by Frost Entomological Museum (CC BY 2.0)

Pre-Enlightenment: Insect Symbolism



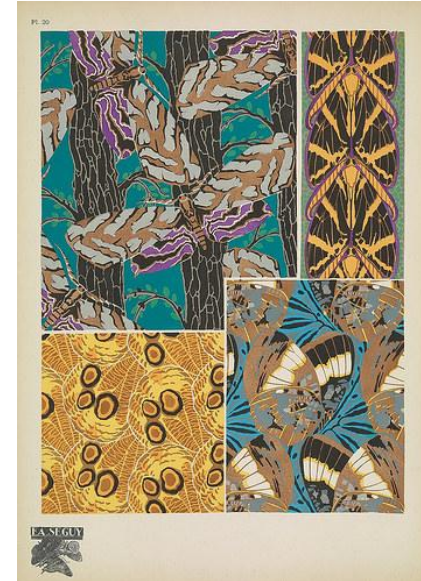
[Photo by Horniman Museum \(CC BY-NC-ND 2.0\)](#)



[The British Library Board \(In public domain\)](#)



[Merian Print by Biodiversity Heritage Library \(CC BY 2.0\).](#)

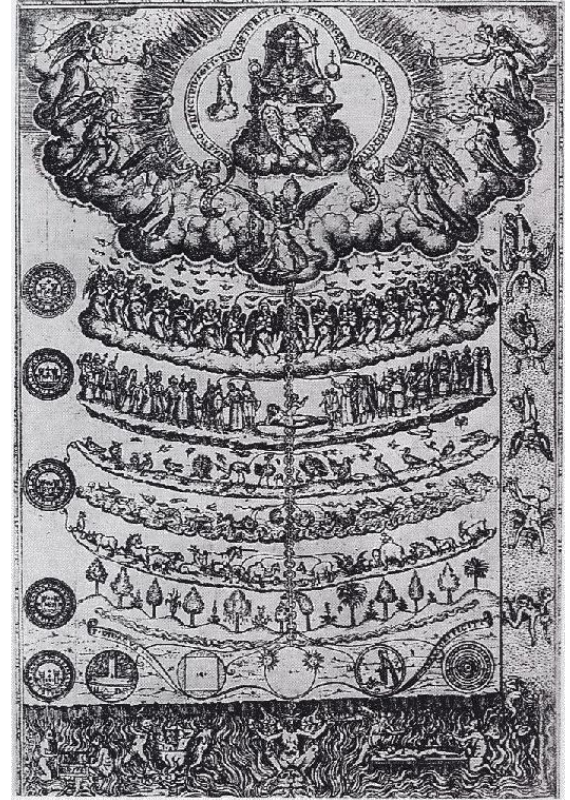


[Séguy Print by Biodiversity Heritage Library \(CC BY 2.0\)](#)

330 BC: Aristotle and Classification Origins



School of Athens image (PD-Art).



Chain of being image (PD-Art)



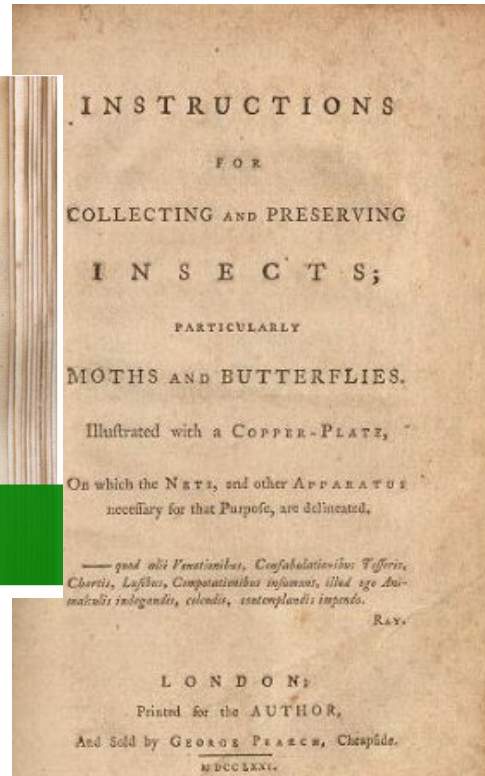
RITRATTO DEL MUSEO DI
FERRANTE IMPERATO

1700s: Natural History Collection/Classification Origins

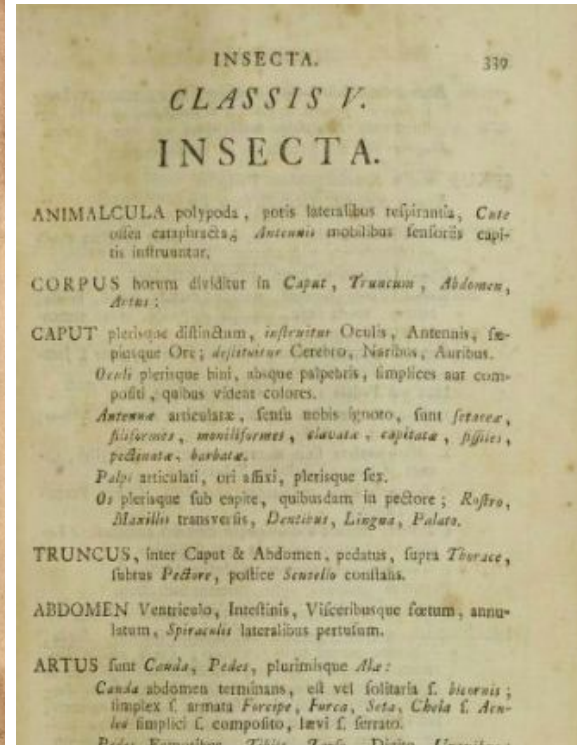


Milkweed or monarch butterflies from the family (Danainae) mounted between sheets of mica, in a volume of Petiver insects.

[Historical Collection at British Museum of Natural History](#)



[Curtis 1771](#)

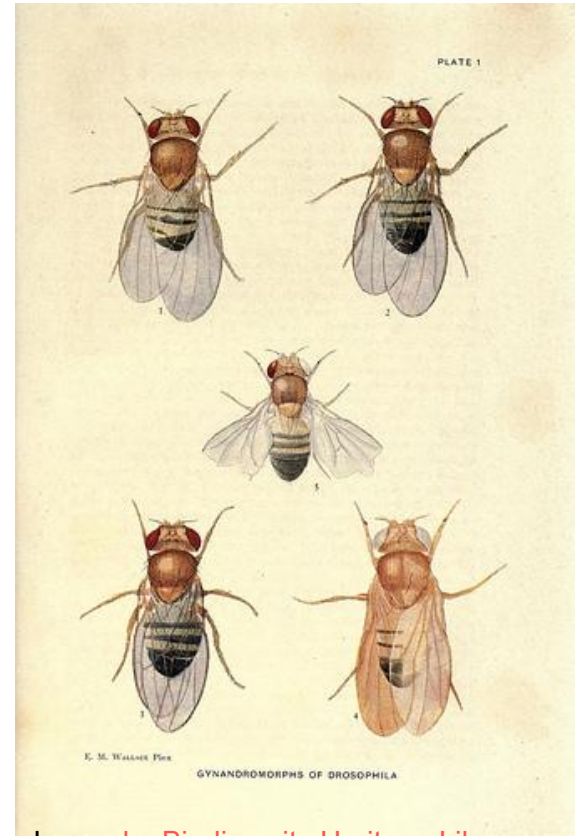


[Linnaeus 1758](#)

1900s: Historical Insect Research



[Image by Jocelyn Dale \(CC BY-NC-ND 2.0\)](#)



[Image by Biodiversity Heritage Library \(CC BY 2.0\)](#)

2000s: Conservation & Eradication



[Image by Biodiversity Heritage Library \(CC BY 2.0\).](#)



[Photo by Jimmy Smith \(CC BY-NC-ND 2.0\)](#)

Action-Guiding Policies & Ethics

SHOULD ANIMALS HAVE STANDING? A RE- STANDING UNDER THE ANIMAL WELFARE ACT

Joseph Mendelson, III*

INTRODUCTION

Thirty years ago, Congress passed the Animal Welfare Act to combat the growing problems of pets stolen for use in research and abusive animal research practices.¹ The AVMA amended several times since its passage in 1966 which in considerable expansion of the statute's original purposes. Currently, the AWA governs not only federal animal research but also numerous activities involving the treatment of animals. The Act also defines and regulates parties directly involved in handling animals including pet dealers, animal exhibitors, and medical research grant recipients.³

Despite the expanding reach of the AWA's regulatory regime, there is general consensus that the statute has failed to fulfill its purpose in fostering the humane treatment of animals.⁴ The AVMA

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Mendelson 1996

Not to Harm a Fly: Our Ethical Obligations to Insects

Jeffrey A. Lockwood
University of Wyoming

Sentience is the most empirically sound basis for the study of animal rights. Perhaps that is why this attribute most often provides the foundation for philosophical investigations of the ethical treatment of animals. A number of psychological parameters have been used to define sentience, and many philosophers find these attributes intuitively and rationally satisfying criteria with which to define the limits of moral consideration. Mental experiences which provide answerable questions for biological experimentation and theory and a defensible basis for moral consideration include pain and consciousness. Given the early argument of Jeremy Bentham, that upon introspection pain is the one intrinsic evil that we can all agree upon, and the contemporary philosophical arguments regarding the moral relevance of pain to animals (Singer 1975, 1977, Fox 1977, Regan 1983), it would seem that Clark (1977) is on safe ground in arguing that the sparing of unnecessary pain is a minimum principle of fundamental behavior. Conscious thought is fundamental to beings who have interests or lives that can be made better or worse, and the inclusion of a being within the scope of moral concern is often predicated on the life of the being mattering to it (Rollin 1981, Rachels 1983). It follows that painless death of an organism without the capacity to think of itself as a distinct entity is at worst a replaceable loss of pleasure (Singer 1975, 1977). Thus extensive and generally convincing arguments ground animal rights and human obligations in sentience.

Although a great deal of biological research relevant to sentience has been incorporated into discussions of the ethical treatment of animals, insects have not been addressed with more than a passing acknowledgement, if that. This exclusion

represents a significant oversight, in that they are the most diverse (75% of all animal species) and abundant (there are about 1 million to 200 million for every human being) of any class of animals (Eisner 1977). Insects provide a valuable model for understanding sentience, although they have not been as extensively studied as vertebrates. By employing the comparative fields of morphology, physiology, neurophysiology, and behavior as well as considerations of their evolutionary biology, there can be a consideration of mental processes in insects on a sound basis for their inclusion in our ethical considerations.

Pain as a Criterion for Sentience

Considerable empirical evidence exists that a variety of invertebrates experience pain. Alameddine et al. (1979) reported that insects possess β -endorphins and enkephalins, the capacity for pain by functional insect physiologist, V. B. 1



PHILOSOPHY

Lockwood 1988



A Consuming Passion for Entomophagy

MAY R. BERENBAUM



"No thanks—I'm anti-anti-GMO."

In March 2015, levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere topped a global average of 400 ppm for the first time since monitoring began (Allen 2015). This increase, up from 280 ppm in pre-industrial days, has not been accompanied, but coincidentally, by an increase of 1.6°F in global temperatures (Kahn 2015). On 12 December, representatives from 186 nations signed a historic agreement to get serious about reducing CO₂ inputs (Davenport 2015). It turns out, though, that, even in nations committed to stopping, slowing, or reversing climate change, there are limits on what individual citizens are willing to do. Some individuals, including, e.g., 182 members of the 116th United States Congress (Herzog 2016, Ellingboe and Koronowski 2016), aren't even willing to acknowledge that it's a thing. If, however, you're among those who feel that the evidence indicates that global temperatures are increasing as a

convincing them to, say, install a programmable thermostat. The argument for entomophagy, though, is pretty compelling, at least on sustainability grounds (van Huis et al. 2013, 2015). For example, CO₂ production per kg of mass gain for insects is only 12% of that for cattle, and in the process of gaining all that mass, insects generate less than 3% of the ammonia and methane that cattle produce (Domínguez et al. 2010). Other environmental benefits include reduced water

(Cather 2015), which is, although environmentally impressive, probably not a slogan they should be putting on product labels anytime soon. Like CO₂ in the atmosphere, interest in entomophagy has been creeping upward of late. International food and restaurant consultants Baum and Whiteman identified "eating bugs" as one of 2015's most important dining-out trends (along with craft gin, vegetable yogurt, and restaurant consultants Baum and Whiteman identified "eating bugs" as one of 2015's most important dining-out trends (along with craft gin, vegetable yogurt, and savory waffles) (Johnson 2014, Borel 2015). Blue-shift Research, a market research firm that uses data to identify "unique and controversial ideas that could lead to investible action," has added "insect-based foods" to their Trends Tracker, an ongoing survey of a thousand American consumers. Last March, they found that "One-third of respondents are likely to buy an insect-based product, but growth rate is sluggish" (Rudy 2015). As an entomologist, I find their analysis disturbing, not because I've invested heavily in the hope of making a quick profit on edible

Berenbaum 2016

Collections: Uses for Specimens from the Past



Collections-Based Research



Chlorinated Hydrocarbons and Eggshell Changes in Raptorial and Fish-Eating Birds

Abstract. *Catastrophic declines of three raptorial species in the United States have been accompanied by decreases in eggshell thickness that began in 1947, have amounted to 19 percent or more, and were identical to phenomena reported in Britain. In 1967, shell thickness in herring gull eggs from five states decreased with increases in chlorinated hydrocarbon residues.*

New perspectives on the role of chlorinated hydrocarbon insecticides in our environment have come into focus in recent years. Successive discoveries have demonstrated that these compounds are systematically concentrated in the upper trophic layers of animal pyramids (1). Raptorial bird populations have simultaneously suffered severe population crashes in the United States and Western Europe (2, 3, 4). These involve reproductive failures which, at least in Britain, are characterized by changes in calcium metabolism and by a decrease in eggshell thickness resulting in the parent birds' breaking and eating their own eggs (4, 5, 6). Such a derangement of calcium metabolism or mobilization perhaps could result from breakdown of steroids by hepatic microsomal enzymes induced by exposure to low dietary levels of chlorinated hydrocarbons (7).

We have examined the possibility that the eggshell changes reported in Britain (6) have also occurred in the United States and that the raptor population crashes in Europe and North America may have had a common physiological mechanism. The population changes are without parallel in the recent history of bird populations (8). They include the pending extirpation of the peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) in northwestern Europe, the complete extirpation of the nesting population of this species in the eastern half of the United States,

declining populations; golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*), red-tailed hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*), and great horned owls (*Bubo virginianus*) were selected as representative of reasonably stationary populations that may be slowly declining as their habitats are gradually destroyed by man, but for which widespread reproductive failures are currently unknown. In addition, 57 eggs of the herring gull (*Larus argentatus*) were collected from five colonies in Britain, are characterized by changes in calcium metabolism and by a decrease in eggshell thickness resulting in the parent birds' breaking and eating their own eggs (4, 5, 6). Such a derangement of calcium metabolism or mobilization perhaps could result from breakdown of steroids by hepatic microsomal enzymes induced by exposure to low dietary levels of chlorinated hydrocarbons (7).

Table 1. Weights of raptor eggshells in museum and private collections. Citations (23-25) refer to the data for the population trend; S.E., standard error of the mean.

Region	Period	No.	Weight (g)		Population trend (reproduction)
			Mean \pm S.E.	Change (%)	
Calif. (23)	1885-1937	386	6.32 \pm 0.032		Stations
	1943-44	6	6.09 \pm 0.237	- 3.6	
	1953-67	8	6.49 \pm 0.214	+ 2.7	
Calif. (23)	1889-1939	278	13.03 \pm 0.083		Stations
	1940-46	28	12.70 \pm 0.161	- 2.5	
	1947-65	33	13.41 \pm 0.232	+ 2.9	
Brevard Co., Fla.	1886-1939	56	12.15 \pm 0.127		

(9). Analyses were conducted on a gas chromatograph (Barber Coleman, model GC 5000, and Jarrell-Ash, model 25700) with electron-capture detector. The glass column (0.6 cm by 1.2 m) was packed with 5 percent DC 200 (12,500 on Cromport XXX. The column temperature was 210°C, and the nitrogen flow rate was 75 cm³/min. Each portion of the ground and dried sample was extracted for 8 hours or more in Soxhlet apparatus with a mixture of ether and petroleum ether (70:170). Portions of the extracts were further purified by putting them through Florisil column.

In California, where the peregrine falcon population is in "a serious condition" (10), a change of 18.8 percent in shell weight occurred from 1947 to 1952. Ratcliffe (6) found a corresponding decrease of 18.9 percent in Britain. The change in California involved a decrease in shell thickness and had no precedent in the previous 57-year recorded history of the peregrine in the state (Fig. 1). In the eastern United States, where the nesting population of peregrines has now been wiped out (8), fragmentary data indicate that the same change took place (Table 1). Broken

Museum specimens reveal loss of pollen host plants as key factor driving wild bee decline in The Netherlands

Jeroen Scheper^{a,1}, Menno Reemer^b, Ruud van Kats^c, Wim A. Ozinga^{c,d}, Giel T. J. van der Linden^e, Joop H. J. Schaminée^{c,d}, Henk Siepel^{f,g}, and David Kleijn^{a,e}

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Edited by May R. Berenbaum, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL, and approved October 30, 2014 (received for review July 9, 2014)

Evidence for declining populations of both wild and managed bees has raised concern about a potential global pollination crisis. Strategies to mitigate bee loss generally aim to enhance floral resources. However, we do not really know whether loss of preferred floral resources is the key driver of bee decline because accurate assessment of host plant preferences is difficult, particularly for species that have become rare. Here we examine whether population trends of wild bees in The Netherlands can be explained by trends in host plants, and how this relates to other factors such as climate change. We determined host plant preference of bee species using pollen loads on specimens in entomological collections that were collected before the onset of their decline, and used atlas data to quantify population trends of bee species and their host plants. We show that decline of preferred host plant species was one of two main factors associated with bee decline. Bee body size, the other main factor, was negatively related to population trend, which, because larger bee species have larger pollen requirements than smaller species, may also point toward food limitation as a key factor driving wild bee loss. Diet breadth and other potential factors such as length of flight period or climate change sensitivity were not important in explaining twentieth-century bee population trends. These results highlight the species-specific nature of wild bee decline and indicate that mitigation strategies will only be effective if they target the specific host plants of declining species.

bee decline | land use change | floral resources | pollen preference | crop pollination

These differential responses can be used to disentangle the effects of floral resource availability from those of other potential factors affecting bee population trends. The proportion of the floral resources in contemporary anthropogenic landscapes that can be used for forage by a bee species depends on its diet breadth and host plant preference, and it may be expected that species that have declined have a narrower diet breadth and prefer host plants that have declined (14, 15). However, diet breadth and host plant preference of bee species is difficult to assess. Presently observed host plant use does not necessarily reflect actual preference, as preferred host plants may have gone locally extinct and bees that have declined may have become restricted in their food choice in their remaining habitats (15). In addition, if host plant use is measured for more individuals of abundant, widespread species than for rare ones, an apparent link between diet breadth and population trend may simply arise as a sampling artifact (16). Furthermore, the relationship between host plant use and population trend may be confounded by species' rarity prior to the onset of major environmental changes (17), as rarity in itself increases susceptibility to stochastic events (18) and has been shown to be one of the most important factors predicting population decline in various taxa (19-21). Surprisingly, to our knowledge, none of the studies that have so far examined the relationship between diet breadth and/or host plant preference and bee population trends have taken species' initial rarity into account (e.g., refs. 3, 4, 15, and 22). Other factors, such as body size (4, 23), phenology (4, 22), and

Significance

A Code of Ethics?

The Insect Collectors' Code*

Carolyn Trietsch & Andrew R. Deans[†]

Frost Entomological Museum, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA USA

3 May 2017

I strive to fulfill, to the best of my ability, the following ideals:

1. I will respect the hard-won scientific gains of those entomologists in whose steps I walk and gladly share my scientific gains and knowledge with those who are to follow.
2. I will aid in the dissemination of scientific knowledge, both to those who study insects and those who do not.
3. I will not discriminate against others, and I will strive to create a safe working environment, whether in the field, the classroom, or the lab.
4. I will treat insects humanely. As a collector, it is within my power to take insect life; I will not take insects that will not be deposited in a natural history collection or otherwise made available for research and education. While bycatch is often unavoidable, I will, to the best of my ability, attempt to reduce the unnecessary loss of insect life and find use for these specimens.
5. I will consider the ecological impact of removing insects and their products (galls, nests, *etc.*) from the environment when collecting, whether the species are protected by law, known to be declining, or are considered to be of least concern. I will strive to avoid or minimize disturbance to the environment while collecting.
6. I will secure appropriate permits prior to collecting insects, and I will honor and uphold the provisions stated by each permit. I will keep copies of all permits on my person while collecting and furnish them to authorized agents upon request. I will save all permits associated with specimens as proof that they were

LEUCORRHINIA GLACIALIS Hagen
SAR PATON
MASON CO., WASHINGTON
24.VI.1898. DAY HILL-FROLL



LEUCORRHINIA GLACIALIS Hagen
Westwood; [Lassen Co., Calif.] Colorado? - SEE LABEL ON P
4.VI.146. (collector?)



LEUCORRHINIA GLACIALIS Hagen
Parc Mt. Tremblant, Quebec, Canada
27.VII.53. (A. Robert)



LEUCORRHINIA GLACIALIS Hagen
Webber Bog (#56)
Lincoln Co., Maine
1.VII.46. (D.J. Borror)
IN COP.



The Beattys: Building a Collection



The Journey



Contributions



New storage standard



New regions sampled



Arigomphus maxwelli (Ferguson 1950)
(Gomphidae)

New species described





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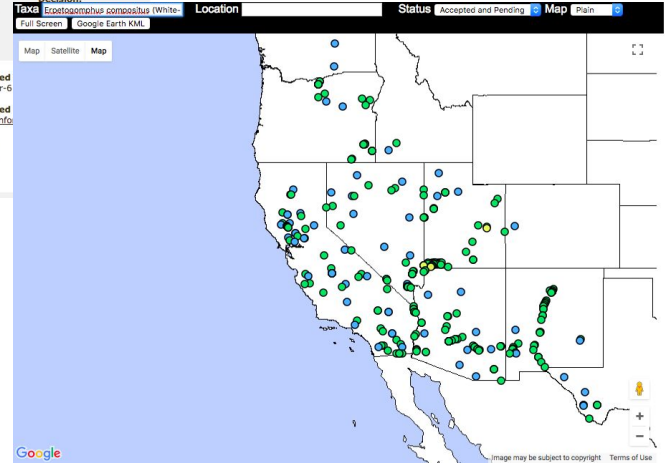
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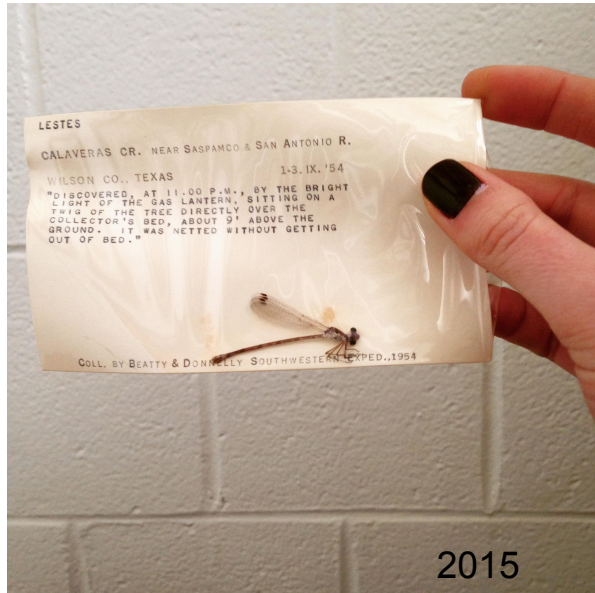
Specimen Utility & Future



Photo	Species	Collected	Submitted	Vetted	Actions
	Scientific Name: <i>Erpetogomphus compositus</i>	Collected On: 2018-May-26	Submitted On: 2018-May-29	Vetted On: 2018-May-29	
	Common Name: White-belted Ringtail	Collected By: Tom Benson	Submitted By: Tom Benson	Vetted By: Kathy Biggs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Jurisdiction: Inyo County, California, United States at 25.97964° N 116.27328° W	OC#: 480628	Decision: Confirmed	
		Favorite:			
No Image	Scientific Name: <i>Erpetogomphus compositus</i>	Collected On: 2003-Jun-21	Submitted On: 2018-Apr-15	Vetted On: 2018-Apr-18	
	Common Name: White-belted Ringtail	Collected By: Steve Hummel	Submitted By: Steve Hummel	Vetted By: Steve Hummel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Jurisdiction: Colusa County, California, United States at 28.96670° N 122.34135° W	OC#: 472186	Decision:	
		Favorite: Bear Creek Swimming Hole @ turn off on CA16			
	Scientific Name: <i>Erpetogomphus compositus</i>	Collected On: 2006-Nov-18	Submitted 2018-Mar-6		
	Common Name: White-belted Ringtail	Collected By: Doug Danforth	Submitted Doug Danforth		
		Jurisdiction: Pinal County, Arizona, United States at 23.05107° N 110.89930° W	OC#: 478107		
		Favorite:			



How Did I Get Here?



References

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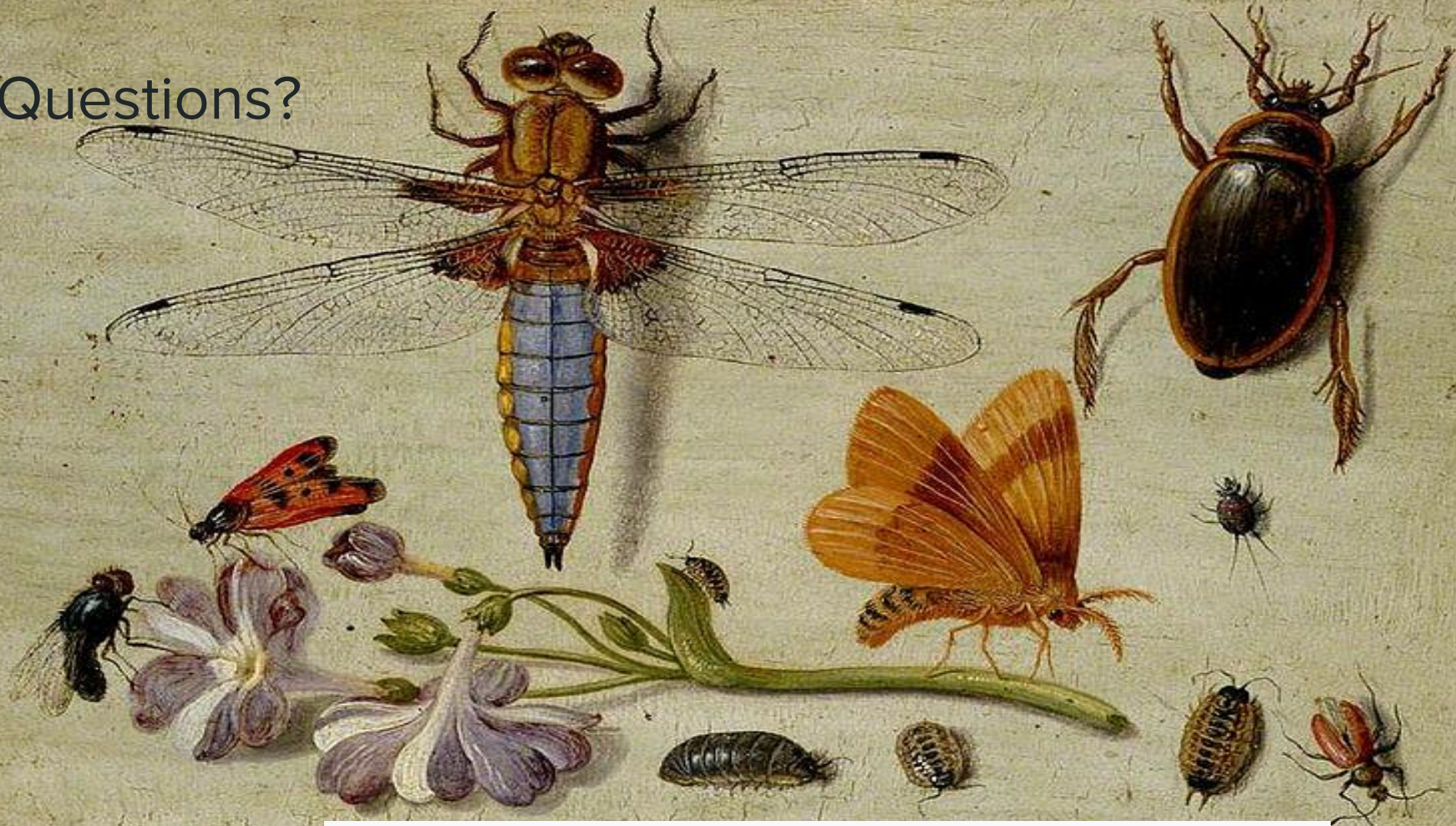
Chasing Butterflies in Medieval Europe Article in Journal of the Lepidopterists' Society · November 2014 DOI: 10.18473/lepi.v68i4.a1
Vazrick Nazari

Georg Toepfer (Zentrum für Literatur- und Kulturforschung, Berlin) Unequivocal ethical concern in pluralistic guise

Darwin Correspondence Project

Trietsch, C & Deans, A. (2017) The Insect Collectors' Code. Figshare.

Questions?



Jan van Kessel - A Cockchafer, Beetle, Woodlice and other Insects, with a Sprig of Auricula (PD-USA)

Acknowledgements

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