

# Entomology

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**Entomology** is the study of insects and their relationship to humans, the environment, and other organisms. Entomologists make great contributions to such diverse fields as agriculture, chemistry, biology, human/animal health, molecular science, criminology, and forensics. The study of insects serves as the basis for developments in biological and chemical pest control, food and fiber production and storage, pharmaceuticals epidemiology, biological diversity, and a variety of other fields of science.

Professional entomologists contribute to the betterment of humankind by detecting the role of insects in the spread of disease and discovering ways of protecting food and fiber crops, and livestock from being damaged. They study the way beneficial insects contribute to the well being of humans, animals, and plants. Amateur entomologists are interested in insects because of the beauty and diversity of these creatures.

Entomology is an ancient science, dating back to the establishment of biology as a formal field of study by Aristotle (384-322 BC). There are even earlier references to the use of insects in daily life: such as the growing of silkworms that began 4700 BC in China, which was an important part of peasant life in China, as early as 4000 BC. More than a hundred years ago, entomologists formed a society, the Entomological Society of America (ESA), to promote the science and study of entomology in the United States (<http://entomology.wsu.edu/prospective-students/the-what-why-of-entomology/>).

## Summary.

1. Insects are vectors of many serious human, animal and plant diseases across the world. Understanding the biology of insects is key to understanding the diseases that they carry and spread.
2. Over half of the two million living species described in the world are insects. If you're interested in global or local biodiversity then insects need to be studied.
3. Insects have been around for over 350 million years and have evolved solutions to many physical and chemical problems. Engineers are increasingly looking to insects for solutions in material science and chemistry. The more understanding we have of insects,

the more we can put that understanding to use.

4. You can travel the world working on insects. Insect are found on all seven continents, even Antarctica.

5. Insects are hugely economically important in agriculture. They can be beneficial as pollinators and decomposers, or they can be detrimental as pests and vectors of plant diseases.

5. Insects are excellent models for physiological and population processes. For example, the common fruit fly, *Drosophila melanogaster*, has been used as a model species in genetic studies for years. Its short generation time, small size and the ease with which it can be reared in the laboratory makes it an ideal organism for such studies.

6. More species of insect have had their genome sequenced than any other group of multicellular organisms. Insects are an excellent model for studying the molecular basis of life.

7. Insect are everywhere. No matter where you live in the world or what language you speak, you will come into contact with insects (<https://www.royensoc.co.uk/what-entomology>).

## Reference

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