

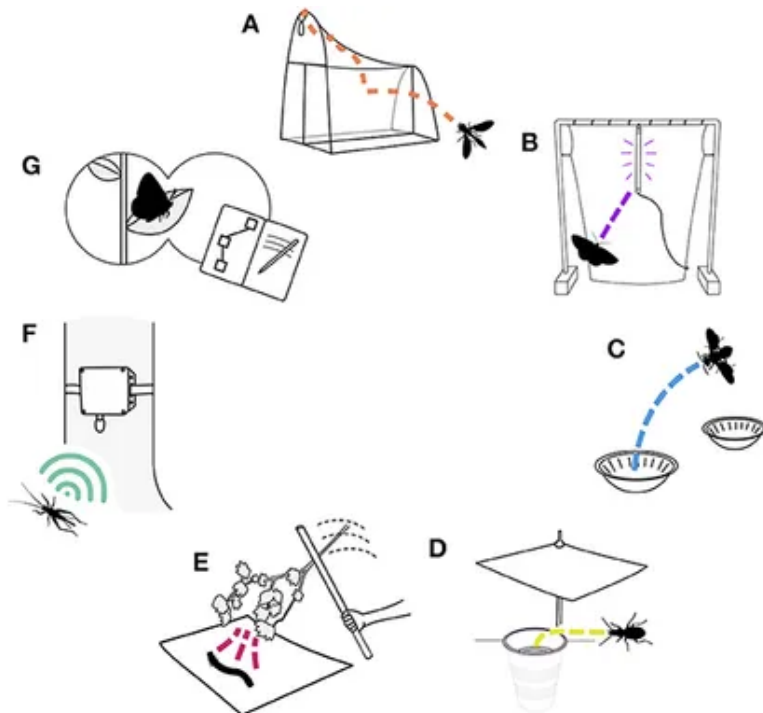
Collecting and Preserving Insects

How to Collect Insects <https://bohart.ucdavis.edu/how-collect-insects>

The Bohart Museum of Entomology website is a great place to start learning about collecting insects. The site goes over the importance of checking with local authorities about permit requirements prior to heading to a site to start collecting. There are general guidelines as to where to look for insects, and what types of collecting equipment you will need.



Collecting Equipment: General tools to research and acquire may include a good insect net, an aspirator, and a beating sheet. You can also look into using various types of insect traps.



Different ways to trap insects. Figure 2 from Montgomery GA et al. (2021). Standards and Best Practices for Monitoring and Bechmarking Insects. Ecol. Evol. 14(8).

<https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/ecology-and-evolution/articles/10.3389/fevo.2020.579193/full> A visual

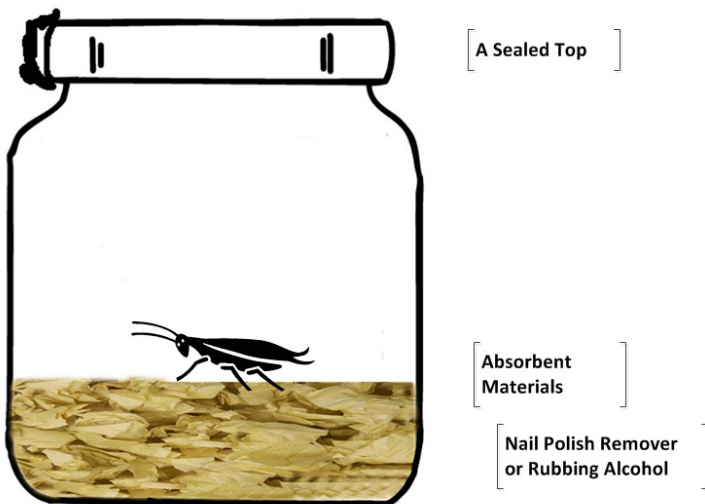
overview of the seven insect benchmarking methods summarized here: (A) malaise trapping, (B) light trapping, (C) pan trapping, (D) pitfall trapping, (E) beating sheet, (F) acoustic monitoring, and (G) active visual surveys.

Collect and Observe Bugs at Home <https://nhm.org/collect-and-observe-bugs-home>

This website is also useful for getting started. There are instructions for a simple pitfall trap and beat sheet with pictures.

Making a Killing Jar

After you have your insect specimen, the next step is placing it in a killing jar. The Bohart Museum of Entomology website has general guidelines on how to make one.



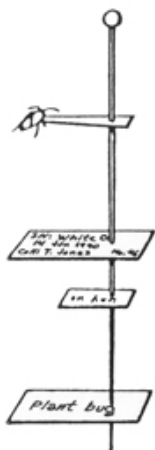
A Simple Killing Jar for Insect Collection

<https://idme-test.ome.ksu.edu/ParticipatoryDesignofaFutureDigitalEntomologyLab/index.html>

How to Preserve Insects

https://extension.entm.purdue.edu/401Book/default.php?page=preserving_insects

Now you need to preserve your insect for future use. The Purdue University Extension website is full of great material on this complicated topic. We suggest starting at the main link posted above, and then go from there. Most preserved insects will need to be pinned and labelled as you can see in the figure below.



Pinning Insects

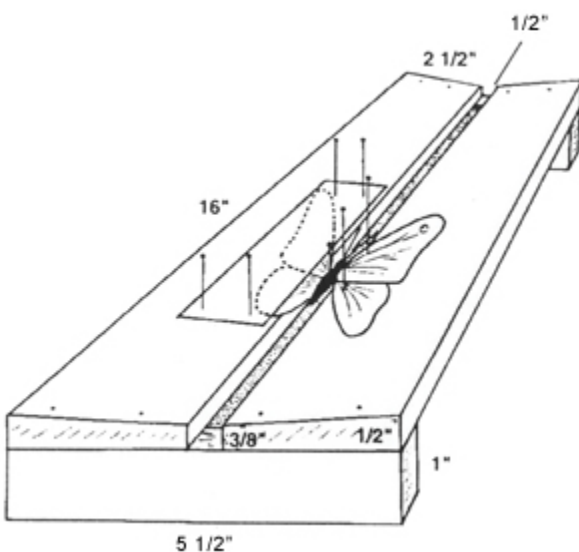
https://extension.entm.purdue.edu/401Book/default.php?page=pinning_large_insects

There are several pages on pinning insects, the tools required to do so, and even videos you can watch. Prior to pinning, the specimen may need to be placed in a relaxing chamber, as discussed on the Purdue University Extension office website.

A great quick overview and video of this can also be found here:

<https://arthropods.nmsu.edu/making-an-insect-collection/setting-up-a-relaxing-chamber.html>

Insects such as butterflies and moths will need to be placed on a spreading board before pinning. See the image from the Purdue University Extension office website below.



Preserving Soft Bodied Insects

Soft bodied insects are preserved in alcohol solution, rather than being pinned. The Purdue University Extension office website also has some general information on this.

There are a number of other pages on this site you can explore as well.

Specimen Preparation Guide <https://entmuseum.ucr.edu/guides-faqs/specimen-preparation>

The UC Riverside Entomology Research Museum website is also packed full of great information. This includes detailed information on labeling, pinning, mounting, and alcohol preparation.

The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation <https://xerces.org/education>

Check out the education resources page for guides, activities, and more!