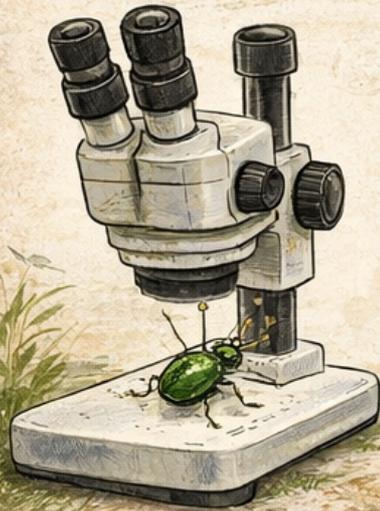


CURATING & MOUNTING INSECT SPECIMENS



Learn the techniques used to properly prepare and mount insect specimens for long-term scientific curation.

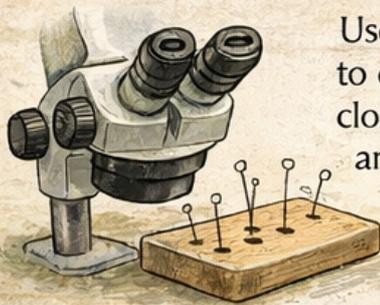


Properly curated insect collections are invaluable scientific resources. Carefully mounted insect specimens are preserved for long-term reference and study.

KEY EQUIPMENT

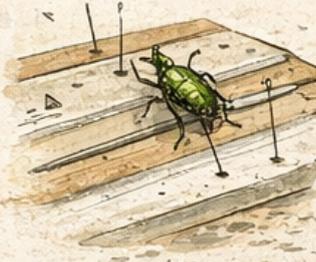


1. STUDY SPECIMEN



Use a stereo microscope to examine your specimen closely, assess any damage, and plan your mounting technique.

2. POSITION & PIN



Place an insect onto a pinning block and insert an insect pin through the thorax into the block.

3. SPREAD & SHAPE



Use a spreading board, foam strips, entomological pins, and Jainters to spread wings and position body parts. Adjust legs, antennae and wings to their correct positions.

4. LABEL SPECIMEN



Prepare a precise label including date, location, collector, and species ID. Attach label securely to pin below the specimen.

5. LEAVE TO DRY

Introduce the pinned specimen into a corkboard pinning box or jar. Leave it in a dry and safe place away from pests and disturbance to allow it to dry completely (typically 3-5 days).



Specimens should be stored in an airtight pest proof drawer made of archival materials.

Check collections regularly for pests & make sure to replace insect barrters like naphthalene strips in a timely manner