



Audubon Insectarium
A Facility of Audubon Nature Institute

Audubon Insectarium: By the Numbers

- Audubon Insectarium comprises 23,000 square feet and features 70+ dynamic and interactive exhibits with thousands of live and mounted specimens.
- Insects make up nearly 90% of the world's species. At any one time, it's estimated there are 10 quintillion individual live insects (10,000,000,000,000,000,000).
- Worldwide, some 900 thousand different insects are known – with thousands more discovered each year. The U.S. has approximately 91,000 species of insects; another 73,000 species may still be undiscovered by science.
- There are 31 different classes of insects. The largest and most common are: Diptera (flies and mosquitoes); Hymenoptera (bees, ants and wasps); Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths); and Coleoptera (beetles).
- Beetles are the largest single group of animals on the planet, with more than 300,000 different known species and thousands more discovered each year. If you lined up all the animals on earth, every 4th one would be a beetle.
- Beetles are so popular in Japan, there are more pet beetles than dogs or cats.
- Insects are an amazing species:
 - Cockroaches haven't changed much in 300,000,000 years.
 - Early dragonflies had wingspans of two feet or more.
 - A bee may fly up to 60 miles a day seeking food.
 - There are 8,800 species of ants, almost as many as the number of known bird species (9,000).
 - Ants can lift 50 times their own weight.
- Insects come in all shapes and sizes:
 - The Fairy Fly is so small that it can fly through the eye of a needle. Adults are only .0067 of an inch in length.
 - The largest wasp is the four-inch-long Tarantula Hawk.
 - A stick insect from Borneo is the longest insect worldwide – it is a foot long.
- Insects are yummy:
 - Many cultures include insects as part of their primary diet, especially in Asia and Africa.
 - The most commonly eaten insect is the nutrient-rich cricket.
 - Eating insects is called Entomophagy.
 - Famous New Orleans chefs have cooked insects for video segments shown at Audubon Insectarium.
- The honey bee is the most popular state insect, with 15 states proclaiming it as their own. The Monarch butterfly is second favorite, with six states claiming it as their official state insect.