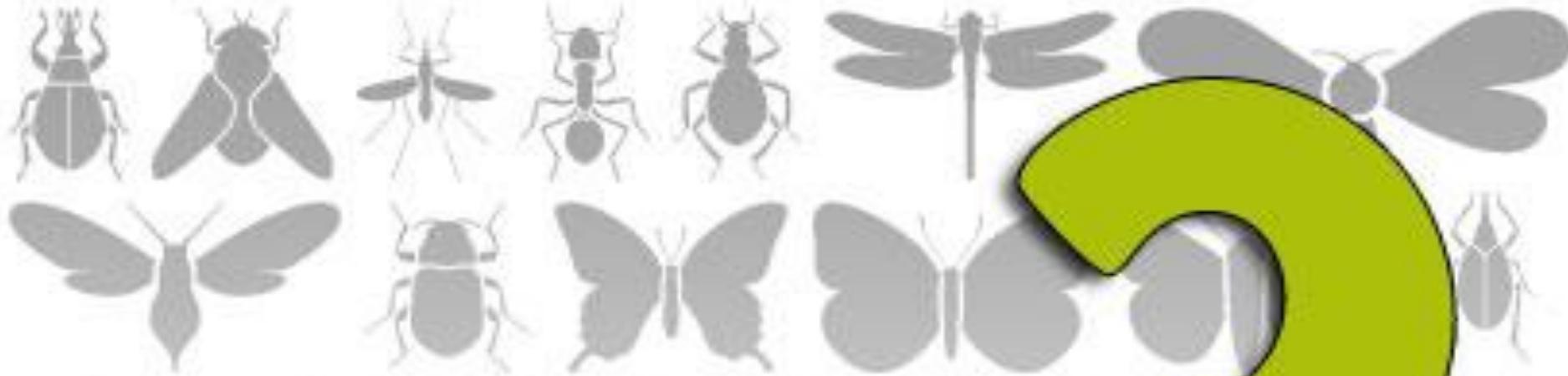


# ENTOMOLOGY

The study  
of  
**INSECTS**



# Lesson 1 - Introduction



**What is**  
**Entomology**

**Entomology** is the study of insects.

The study of insects includes their development, anatomy, physiology, life history, behaviour, environment, and classification.

The term **entomology** is derived from two Greek words. **Entomon** means an **insect** and **logos** means to **study**. The term '**insect**' is derived from the Latin word **insectum** which means '**cut into**'.



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- More than one million different species of insect have been described to date.
- They are the most abundant group of animals in the world and live in almost every habitat. Insects have lived on earth for more than 350 million years.
- Entomology is crucial to our understanding of human disease, agriculture, evolution, ecology and biodiversity.



**Entomologists** are people who study insects, as a career, as amateurs or both



# Why entomology is important?

1. Insects are the most numerous animals in the world.
2. They have an enormous impact on people's lives.
3. Entomology gives people a better understanding of the environment, biology, and the world in which they live.
4. Entomology can be used to help reduce the extensive economic losses in damage caused by insects each year.



Entomology helps improve human and animal health.

# Why study Entomology?

- 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 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. 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.
- 7. 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**.
- 8. Insect are everywhere. No matter where you live in the world or what language you speak, you will come into contact with insects.

**Interested in studying Entomology?**

**Next  
lesson 2 –  
Role of Insects**