

# Online Alberta Biodiversity: One Bug at a Time

## Species Pages as Term Papers in ENT 427/527

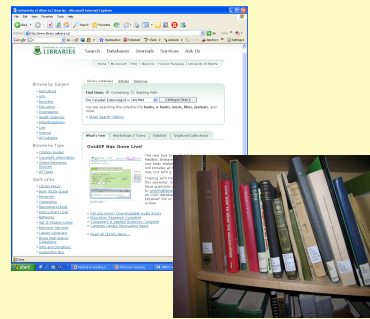
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### Abstract

Insects, term papers, and museums may seem esoteric to students. But in Entomology 427/527 we have brought them together to create a resource that has both immediate and lasting value. Instead of traditional term papers, students write species pages for Alberta insects, one species at a time. Students learn to use library resources - far beyond Google - to write succinct, original summaries of the current knowledge of a few of the 10,000+ species of terrestrial arthropods that they may encounter in Alberta. They use advanced software to create images of museum specimens that can be used to identify bugs without needing reference collections. They database label information from museum specimens and draw inferences about the life histories of each insect. Above all, students learn how to use computer resources to connect, in both practical and emotional terms, with the teeming life that surrounds them. In the process they are proudly building a resource that the whole world can use - the Strickland Virtual Museum at: <http://www.entomology.ualberta.ca/>

### Fostering Learning Skills in Four Areas

#### 1. Library search

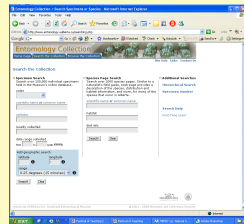


#### 2. Imaging

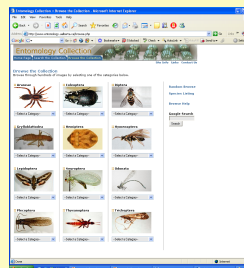


### About the Virtual Museum

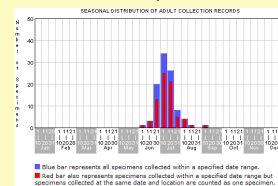
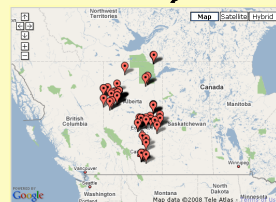
#### Search



#### Browse



#### 3. Databasing

A screenshot of a database table showing collection records. The table has columns for Species, Date, Location, and other details. The data is organized in a grid format.

#### 4. Writing skills

