

Collection Requirements

(260 points)

Objectives:

The objective of the collection is to show that you know how to: (1) collect insects in diverse environments; (2) preserve insects; (3) how to curate and mount insects for museum study, and; (4) identify insects to order/family level.

The collection must contain the following:

- 75 insect specimens total, **adults only**, properly identified 210 pts.*
 - at least 15 different, correctly identified orders
 - at least 30 different, correctly identified families
- You must include a completed "Collection List" file and have it attached to your collection to receive a grade. Collections without this list will receive a zero. See Canvas for file example

Collections must be properly curated and will undergo curatorial inspection (50 pts)

* Multiple individuals of the same species only count once towards the total number of specimens and for properly curated specimens on points or vials.

- Collections should be submitted in a box with a lid and a foam pinning bottom.
- Examples of pinning, pointing, spreading, and ethanol vials required
- Specimens need to be grouped by order and family and arranged in rows (this excludes vials).
- For additional grading information see the grading charts below (note the deductions and opportunities for bonus points)

The collection is due on Dec. 4, 2026 by the end of beginning of Lab time (2pm)

Identification Assessment Guide:

	Min	Points Per	
Orders	15	5	75
Families	30	2	60
Specimens	75	1	75
Misidentifications		-1.5	
			210

You can submit extra specimens with identifications to total up to 300 pts (including curation points below). Keep in mind, you can gain points, but you can also lose points with misidentifications. Extra specimens cannot buy back a low curation score: your final collection grade is still subject to the Curation Grade Cap Policy below.

Curation Assessment Guide:

Curation (part 2, 50 pts)	Points
Pinned specimens (15 pts.)	
Condition of specimens (4 pts.)	
Angle of pin (1 pts.)	
Height of specimen on pin (2 pts.)	
Placement of the pin (2 pts.)	
Appropriate sized pin (1 pts.)	
Leg, antennae, abdomen position (5 pts.)	
Lepidoptera – spread wings (5 pts.)	
Condition of specimens (2 pts.)	
Angle of pin (0.5 pt.)	
Height of specimen on pin (0.5 pt.)	
Wing, antennae, abdomen position (2 pts.)	
Pointed specimens (10 pts.)	
Condition of specimens (2 pt.)	
Height of specimen on pin (1 pt.)	
Appropriate sized pin (1 pt.)	
Placement of the point (4 pts.)	
Standard point (2 pt.)	
Labels (located on pins) (10 pts.)	
Information on labels/white paper (2 pts.)	
Font size (2 pts.)	
Overall size (2 pts.)	
Arrangement of labels on pin (2 pts.)	
Position of labels under specimens (2 pts.)	
Vials (10 pts.)	
Condition of specimens (2 pts.)	
One species per vial (1 pt.)	
Appropriate sized vial (1 pt.)	
Completely filled (alcohol) (2 pts.)	
Labels correct information/white paper (2 pts.)	
Label correct size and placement (2 pts.)	
Deductions	
Labels printed in colors other than black (-1 pt. per label)	
Wrong pins (i.e. sewing pins) (- 1pt. per pin)	
Incorrect curation method (- 3 pts. per specimen)	

Curation Grade Cap Policy

Correct identifications cannot offset badly curated specimens. Your curation score (0-50 pts, from the table above) sets a ceiling on the maximum grade the overall collection can receive, no matter how many specimens, orders, or families are correctly identified, and no matter how many extra specimens are submitted.

Curation Points Earned (out of 50)	Max Collection Grade Allowed
45-50 (90-100%)	No cap - full range (up to 115% with extra credit)
35-44 (70-89%)	Capped at 93% (A-/A)
25-34 (50-69%)	Capped at 83% (B-/B)
15-24 (30-49%)	Capped at 73% (C-/C)
1-14 (2-28%)	Capped at 63% (D-/D)
0 or below (0% or negative)	Capped at 59% (E) - collection cannot pass, regardless of ID/specimen score

Your collection grade is calculated normally (specimens + orders + families + extra credit minus misidentifications, out of 260, up to 300 with bonus specimens), then reduced to the cap above if it exceeds it. Deductions in the table above can bring the curation score below zero -- a negative curation score automatically places the collection in the bottom tier.