



SCOPE OF UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA COLLECTION OF ARTHROPODS A GROWING COLLECTION

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Collection History



The University of Central Florida Collection of Arthropods (UCFC), was founded in 1993 by Stuart Fullerton. The UCFC started out as a small teaching collection, but Stuart had a larger vision for the collection. Together with a team of student volunteers, Stuart began to build the foundation of a regional collection focusing on the arthropod biodiversity of Central Florida in a small room, which became known as the "Bug Closet".

Soon UCFC overflowed out of its original room. In 1997, the UCF Department of Biology created the museum range to house UCFC and other teaching collections. With the move into the bigger space, Stuart and his team of students began to database the collection. The first new species from the collection holdings was described in 1997. The collection continued to grow rapidly. UCFC was a mostly volunteer operation until 2010, when the first curator, Dr. Hojun Song, was hired. In 2012, the collection manager, Sandor Kelly, was added to the UCF staff. By this time, the collection had surpassed 500,000 specimens. After Dr. Song's departure in 2015, the Biology Department promptly hired Dr. Barbara Sharanowski to act as curator.

In 2014, Stuart passed away leaving UCFC as his legacy. Thanks to his hard work and the mentoring of numerous students over the years, UCFC is a vibrant collection and one of the largest regional collections to be completely databased



Figure 1: Stuart Fullerton

Education and Outreach

UCFC offers research, volunteer, and employment opportunities for UCF students interested in entomology or natural history. Students are given the chance to focus their work on a specific taxonomic group which they become the "resident expert" in.

UCFC offers a teaching collection and insect displays for use by UCF Biology faculty and students.



Figure 2: Bug Closet Students and Collection Manager, Shawn Kelly

Tours of UCFC are available to professionals, students, and the general public.

Scope of Collection Holdings

Nearly 75% of the specimens were collected from Florida with the vast majority being collected in the Central Florida region. The other 25% of the holdings were collected from various surveys conducted in the continental U.S., including California and Tennessee. Less than 5% of the holdings are from international localities. Over 75% of UCFC holdings have ecological data associated with each specimen

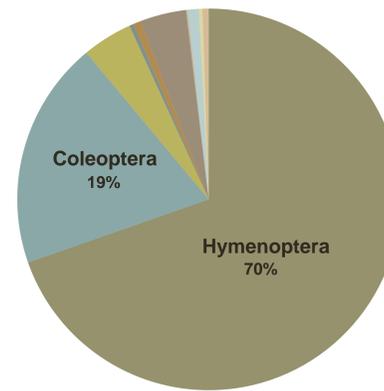


Figure 3: Number Specimens Per Order (Total= 557,834)

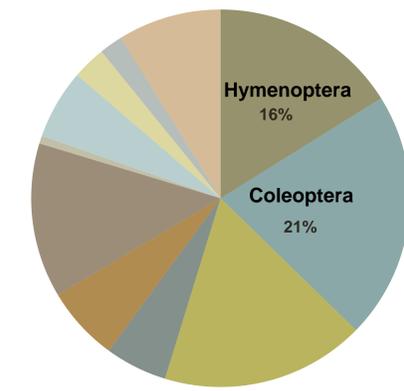
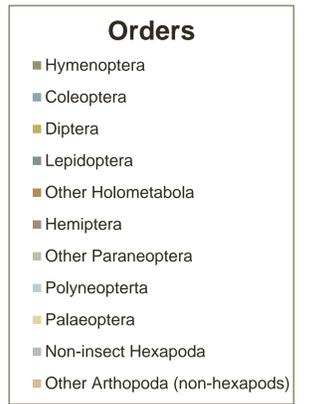


Figure 4: Number of Families per Order (Total=453)



New Species

Since 1997, a total of **23 species** have been described based on recently collected material.

- 18 Hymenopterans
- 4 Coleopterans
- 1 Dipteran



Specimen Loans

Loan requests can be made to the collection manager by mail, e-mail, or telephone. Please visit our website at bugcloset.cos.ucf.edu for more information.

Research and Publications

Since 2011, a total of **32 publications** have been published with the help of UCFC through:

- Biodiversity surveys of natural areas
- Arthropod ecological data
- Digitizing collection data
- Taxonomy
- Natural history



Figure 5: Malaise Trap In The UCF Arboretum After A Prescribed Burn

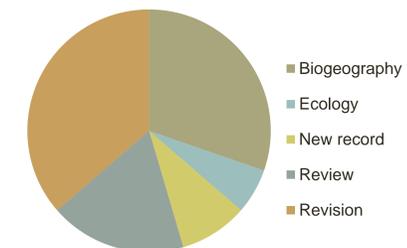


Figure 6: Publication Type

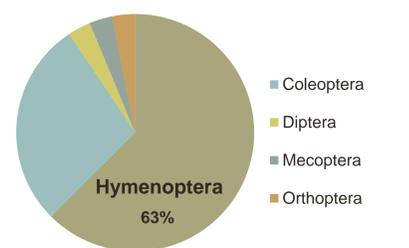


Figure 7: Orders Per Publication

Acknowledgments

Thank you to the Fullerton Family Fund for funding, our former curator Dr. Hojun Song, and our current curator Dr. Barbara Sharanowski,

