



How to Arrange Insects in the Display Case

Insects are divided into two subclasses, the **Apterygota** which are wingless insects, and the **Pterygota** or winged insects. The Apterygota contain small primitive insects which grow and develop with little or no metamorphosis. They are divided into three orders: Protura, Thysanura, Collumbola and Micocoryphia.

The Pterygota contain the other orders of insects. There are divided into ancient, winged insects, whose wings are held permanently at right angles to the body and modern, winged insects, whose wings can be folded and held close to the body.

The information sheet entitled *Insect Order, Meanings and Common Names* lists insect orders in the order in which they would appear in the display case if the classification system is followed. It is located in Unit 3 Insect Identification at <http://oregon.4h.oregonstate.edu/projects/natural-science/entomology>. However, most exhibitors put the butterflies in the middle.

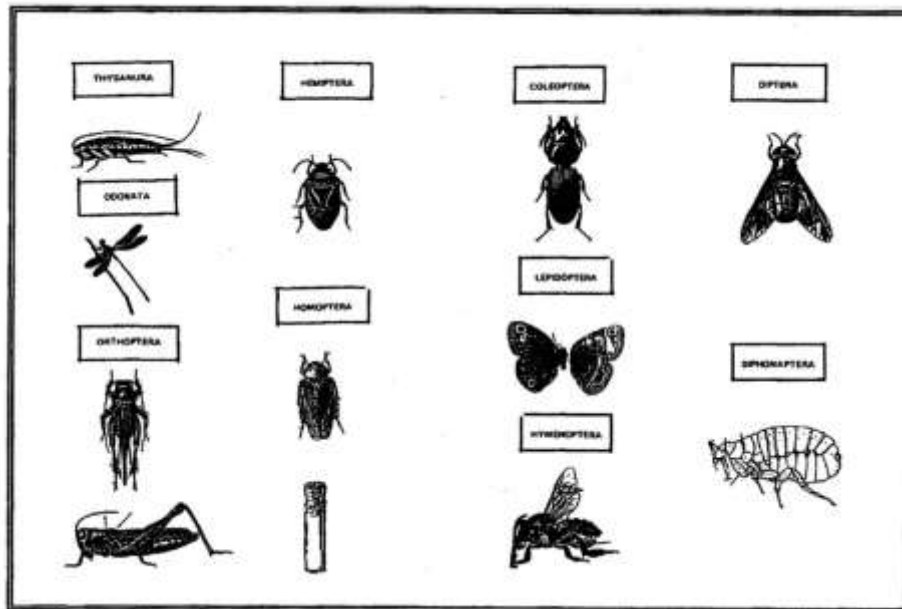
For displays at the county and state fair, all boxes are to be 3 inches deep and have a glass lid. The sizes of the exhibit boxes required vary with the exhibit class. The measurements below are all outside measurements.

Exhibit class	Number of insects	Size of Box
First year Junior	for 10 insects	10" x 13" Extra Small box
Junior	up to 20 insects	12" x 18" Small box
Intermediate	up to 35 insects	18" x 19" Medium box
Seniors	up to 50 insects	18" x 24" Large box

1. Start by laying out the insects in a box that will be used for an exhibit, arranging them as close as possible to the *Insect Orders, Meanings, Common Names* list. The primitive orders would be in the upper left-hand corner of the box and proceed to the most advanced orders in the lower right-hand corner of the box. It is best if the orders preserved in alcohol are placed next to the display's lower edge to brace and secure the vials starting with primitive orders first.
2. Move the insects around if needed to show off the insects with the largest and showiest ones in the middle. Insects might also be moved around to give a pleasing balance to the collection.
3. Once the insects are arranged, next make a layout of the display, so lines can be drawn on a sheet of paper to show insect orders. The order sections will help when arranging the insect

collection for the final display. Insects could even be grouped in different families in their respective order sections.

4. The insect order labels should be printed from the *Cut Out Insect Order Labels* document under Unit 4, Part 8 Labeling and Displaying at the link <http://oregon.4h.oregonstate.edu/projects/natural-science/entomology>. The document should be printed on card stock so the labels will be stiff enough to mount on an insect pin.



This is a First year Junior Display containing ten insects.



Photos of examples of displays for Entomology Exhibit Classes are in Unit 4, Part 8 Labeling and Displaying at the link <http://oregon.4h.oregonstate.edu/projects/natural-science/entomology>.

4-H Youth Development, Oregon State University, 106 Ballard Hall, Corvallis, Oregon 97331-3608 T 541-737-4444 | F 541-737-1332 | <http://oregon.4h.oregonstate.edu> 4-H Entomology Project <http://oregon.4h.oregonstate.edu/projects/natural-science/entomology> Agriculture, Family and Community Development, 4-H Youth, Forestry, and Extension Sea Grant programs. Oregon State University, United States Department of Agriculture, and Oregon counties cooperating. The Extension Service offers its programs and materials equally to all people.

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