

THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE

UGLY BUG CONTEST

vote by december 15th at askbiologist.asu.edu

WANTED

Bed bug: *Cimex lectularius*

Habitat: Bed bugs can be found in beds, sleeping bags, pillows, blankets, carpets and crevices on the floor or on walls.

Size: 4-5 mm

Predators/Prey:

They feed on the blood of humans or other warm-blooded animals. Some have been known to live as long as a year without food.

Lifespan:
10-18 months

Interesting facts: Their bite is painless, and they are not known to transmit any disease. Irritation to the skin is caused by the salivary fluid injected by the bugs.



WANTED

Seed beetle: *Algarobius prosopis*

Habitat: Seed beetles and their larvae feed on beans and seeds of other plants, and their larvae develop inside a single seed.

Size: 2-4 mm

Predators/Prey:

They feed only on the seeds of plants.

Lifespan:

20-80 days

Interesting facts: Seed

beetles are also commonly called "bean weevils", even though they are not weevils in the strict sense since they lack a long snout. In Arizona, they are common in the seeds of mesquite and "algarobo" trees.



WANTED

Ichneumon Wasp: Hymenoptera

Habitat: Ichneumonidae occur in a wide variety of habitats like gardens, meadows or woodlands.

Size: about 2 cm

Predators/Prey: These wasps are parasitoid, which means that their larvae feed on only one host organism and almost always kill it towards the end of their development.

Lifespan: 12-22 days

Interesting facts:

Wasps in the order Hymenoptera have been part of human culture for a long time. In ancient Egypt, bees and wasps were symbolized as various gods. Ichneumon wasps attacks a wide range of arthropods and therefore often used as a biological control agents of plant pests.



WANTED

Soft-winged flower beetle: *Collops vittatus*

Habitat: Flower beetles are commonly found in cotton fields and other agricultural crops.

Size: 10 mm

Predators/Prey:

These are important predators that feed on soft-bodied insects including whiteflies (eggs, nymphs and adults), aphids, mites and caterpillars.

Lifespan: 60-80 days

Interesting facts: Arizona researchers have found that *Collops* can be very important in the natural control of whiteflies in cotton.



Contestants prepared and photographed: Northern Arizona University Imaging and Histology Core Facility and the Arizona State University CLAS Bioimaging Facility • Photography: Therry The [NAU] and David Lowry [ASU]
Contestant recruitment and special effects: Page Baluch [ASU] • Arizona Ugly Bug Contest Originator: Marilee Sellers [NAU]

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