

The Insect Collectors' Code*

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I strive to fulfill, to the best of my ability, the following ideals:

1. I will respect the hard-won scientific gains of those entomologists in whose steps I walk and gladly share my scientific gains and knowledge with those who are to follow.
2. I will aid in the dissemination of scientific knowledge, both to those who study insects and those who do not.
3. I will not discriminate against others, and I will strive to create a safe working environment, whether in the field, the classroom, or the lab.
4. I will treat insects humanely. As a collector, it is within my power to take insect life; I will not take insects that will not be deposited in a natural history collection or otherwise made available for research and education. While bycatch is often unavoidable, I will, to the best of my ability, attempt to reduce the unnecessary loss of insect life and find use for these specimens.
5. I will consider the ecological impact of removing insects and their products (galls, nests, *etc.*) from the environment when collecting, whether the species are protected by law, known to be declining, or are considered to be of least concern. I will strive to avoid or minimize disturbance to the environment while collecting.
6. I will secure appropriate permits prior to collecting insects, and I will honor and uphold the provisions stated by each permit. I will keep copies of all permits on my person while collecting and furnish them to authorized agents upon request. I will save all permits associated with specimens as proof that they were collected legally.
7. I will keep detailed field notes of my collecting activities and will make these available to the greater scientific community.
8. I will prepare and label specimens according to standards established by professional entomologists who work with collections.
9. I will properly store all specimens under my care, and I will not allow specimens to become damaged or degraded through neglect.
10. I will properly use and dispose of preservatives, killing agents, and other chemicals associated with specimen collection and preparation. I will never use these chemicals to harm myself or others.
11. I will make arrangements for any personal specimens or collections in my possession to be deposited in a museum in the event of my untimely death.
12. I will not create false data.

May I always act so as to preserve the finest traditions of natural history, and so long as I uphold these traditions and the stated ideals, may I long experience the joy of my contributions to the furthering of scientific knowledge.

*This oath was modified from the modern version of the Hippocratic oath, written in 1964 by Louis Lasagna and available at: <http://www.aapsonline.org/ethics/oaths.htm#lasagna> (accessed 26 April 2017)

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