



Pathology & Biology Section – 2005

G55 An Instructional DVD on Collecting Entomological Evidence for Court

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After attending this presentation, attendees will learn that there is now available a training video on how to properly collect, preserve, and process entomological evidence for court. This training aid will benefit law enforcement agencies, death scene investigators, medical examiners, and forensic entomologists.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by standardizing the practices which are critical to the development of postmortem intervals and the utilization of insects as evidence during criminal investigations.

This DVD was created by forensic entomologists to fulfill the immediate need to standardize practices for collecting entomological evidence. The material is intended to instruct forensic investigators on how to collect specimen samples and field data in a way that will be scientifically valuable and credible in court. The DVD includes an overview of forensic entomology and the decomposition of an animal model has been time-lapsed to demonstrate the association of insects with various stages of decay. Insects commonly found with human remains are shown and factors that influence insect activity and development are described. Crime scene photographs and video are used to aid in the recognition of what information should be collected during death investigations. A list of equipment needed to process entomological evidence is given, and the collection and preservation of insect specimens is clearly demonstrated in a step-by-step procedure. The main purpose of this DVD is to standardize the practices that are critical to the development of postmortem intervals, and demonstrate the utilization of insects as evidence during criminal investigations. The entire training video is 25 minutes; however, the multi-media format provides self-paced instruction and allows the viewer to select specific modules for quick referencing.

Forensic Entomology, Collection, Evidence