



# Meet the Scientist!



An entomologist studies insects and their interactions with other organisms and environment.

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<http://www.naturalinquirer.org>

### Important Scientist Characteristics

To be a good entomologist I have to be curious, a good observer, very organized, and like to count and record a lot of data. I also have to be good at writing and talking about what I have found, both to other scientists and the public.

### Example of a simple research question I have tried to answer:

How does temperature affect the growth and survival of wood boring insects that that can kill our trees?

### Technology or equipment used in research:

We use environmental growth chambers that we can match the temperature, relative humidity, and light cycle the insects would experience in different geographic places and at different times of the year.

### Most Exciting Discovery

It has been exciting working with a group of people from universities and other agencies to develop a trap and lure to detect the Asian longhorned beetle. This trap and lure helps inspectors find it and destroy it before it can move and damage more trees.

### When did you know you wanted to be a scientist?

I have loved science since I was a kid, and I often setup my own mini insect experiments. When I finished studying science in college I decided to continue studying to become an entomologist so I could get paid to work with insects and discover new things about them.

<http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/people/mkeena>