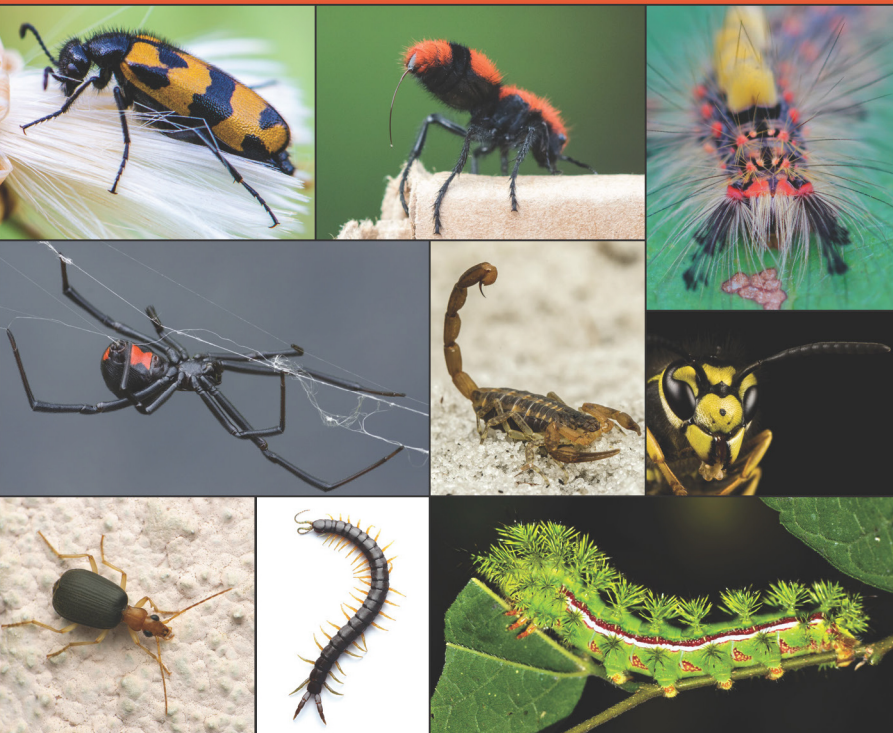


"NO TOUCHY"

ARTHROPODS OF ICHAUWAY



THE JONES CENTER AT
ICHAUWAY

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For additional info, scan here:



Southern Black Widow



Red hourglass

- Enjoys privacy
- Smooth egg sacs
- Bite symptoms can include muscle cramps, severe high blood pressure

Brown Widow



- Enjoys exposed areas
- Spiky egg sacs
- Bite symptoms are typically minor

Brown Recluse



Violin pattern

- Brown recluse has never been found on Ichaaway, nor is it likely to occur in Southwest Georgia
- Distinctive violin pattern and three pairs of eyes
- Harmless spiders are often misidentified as brown recluse
- Skin infections are often blamed as spider bites

Brown Recluse Lookalikes



Bark Scorpion

- Very active
- Appreciate dark areas such as under bark
- Sting pain similar to that of a bee



Millipedes



- Not venomous
- Two pairs of legs per segment
- Some have glands that can produce irritating chemicals

Centipedes



- Venomous
- One pair of legs per segment
- Sting pain similar to that of a bee

TOXIC BEETLES

Blister Beetles



- When rubbed or squashed, release hemolymph (blood) containing a blistering agent, cantharidin
- Elongated, cylindrical bodies of various colors
- False blister beetles look like blister beetles and can also cause dermatitis (skin irritation)



Bombardier Beetles

Sprays a boiling hot, noxious chemical compound called benzoquinone from a rotating posterior orifice that allows them to aim the spray toward a predator

False Bombardier Beetles

Can spray formic acid and acetic acid to deter predators

Red head of a bombardier beetle

Black head of a *false* bombardier beetle



Pssst! Scan here for a video of a bombardier beetle spraying!



Toe-Biters



- Found in aquatic vegetation
- Inject painful digestive enzymes into their prey (fish and frogs)

Velvet Ants



- Velvet ants are wasps (not ants!)
- Males have wings and cannot sting
- Though non-aggressive, females have an extremely painful sting
- You will often find them scurrying across open areas such as sandy roads

Wasps and their Mimics

- Wasps (and bees) can cause painful stings and even dangerous allergic reactions
- The best way to avoid getting stung is to remain calm
- Wasps are tremendously diverse and provide important ecological services such as pollination, biological control, and decomposition



Wasps

Bees



Harmless Wasp and Bee Mimics



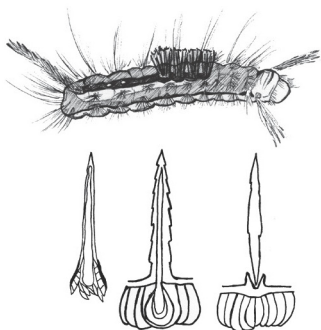
Scorpionflies

- Are neither scorpions nor flies
- Belong to the order Mecoptera
- Have elongated rostrum or “beak”
- Males have genitalia resembling a scorpion sting, but they are harmless



TOXIC CATERpillARS

Some caterpillars are covered in toxic spines which can break off if touched, become embedded in skin, and cause pain



Toxic



Megalopyge opercularis
Puss caterpillar



Phobetron pithecium
Hag caterpillar



Orgyia leucostigma
Tussock moth caterpillar



Automeris io
Io moth

Non-Toxic



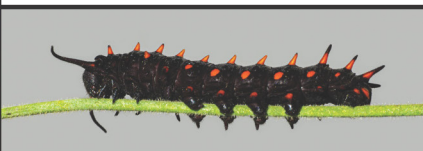
Agraulis vanillae
Gulf-fritillary caterpillar



Malacosoma americanum
Eastern tent caterpillar



Junonia coenia
Common buckeye



Battus philenor
Pipevine swallowtail

SAFETY TIPS for dealing with DANGEROUS ARTHROPODS

Most arthropods in Georgia are harmless.

Arthropods deserve the same respect and interest as other animals. Bugs are cool, and ecologically important, but some just need to be approached with care.

Use caution when lifting logs, rocks, and other structures that provide crevices for arthropods to hide. Use forceps, a collecting jar, or your camera to observe without directly touching.

Many arthropods use *aposematism* (warning signals) to tell you “Leave me alone!”

This might include:

- Bright colors like red, orange, and yellow
- Tentacles
- Protruding hairs

If you are bitten or stung, wash the area of wound to prevent infection.

If you are bitten or stung by a medically important arthropod, consider seeking medical attention.



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