

Guidelines for Responsible Arthropod Collecting

In the interest of being responsible scientists and environmental stewards, here are several guidelines for collecting insects and other invertebrates.

1. Collect only the number and type of specimens needed.
2. Take care not to damage local plant life, roil up sediments, displace aquatic plants or disturb other species of animals which you are not collecting. Carefully replace any moved or disturbed habitat, such as dead logs, barks, overturned stones, etc.
3. Before collecting a specimen, make note of its environment and what it is doing. This may help you identify the specimen. If the specimen is collecting food, laying eggs, brooding eggs or larvae, or engaged in other activities done to ensure the continuation of the species, please try to avoid collecting. This is especially important for many of our pollinators, particularly solitary bees, which are preparing food resources for their larvae.
4. Avoid collecting species of special concern. They are listed at:
 - a. [List of Threatened Fauna of Michigan.](#)
 - b. [Species of Greatest Conservation Need – Michigan’s Wildlife Action Plan, 2015 – 2025](#)
5. When using a trap to collect a specimen, check it regularly to ensure only a small number of specimens, particularly from one species, are taken from any single site and that those not intended to be captured are released unharmed.
6. If possible, seek permission for collecting on residential properties and in parks. Collect carefully and discreetly so as not to disturb others using the site.
7. Keep good records for your collection. This is an appropriate scientific protocol and helps establish and maintain useful data about the species.

This condensed list has been adapted from “[A code of conduct for collecting insects and other invertebrates - Joint Committee for the Conservation of British Invertebrates.](#)”