

## INSECT EXPLORERS' SERIES: BAITING FOR INSECTS

Many insects, such as ants, dung beetles, carrion beetles, bark beetles, moths, and others are attracted to various baits in the night while butterflies, flies, wasps, ants are attracted during daytime. Baits can be used be applied to the ground, on trees, ropes, or elsewhere, and insects can be observed/collected directly on them. This is good activity to attract insects for observation rather chasing them in the wilderness

**.Learning Objectives:** After this activity students will learn

- To identify nocturnal insects
- About feeding habits of different insects

**Group size:** Depends on locations of baiting

**Duration:** 30 minutes for setting up, observation overnight.

**Requirement:** Beer, Rotten or ripe bananas, pine apple, grapes, brown sugar (the quantity depends on the amount of bait to be prepared), container for bait, large brush, Insect Data Sheet, Insect Field Guide.

**Method:**

1. Smash the fruits and mix them with beer and brown sugar. Keep them for fermentation for two days. Keep the bait fully covered
2. Carry the bait in a container and identify open sunny patches and pour the bait slurry on some rocks. Apply the slurry on tree barks generously.
3. Wait and watch from a safe distance during day as well as night times.
4. Record the data in the data sheet and use an insect field guide to identify the insects.



# INSECT EXPLORER'S DATA SHEET

Name of Student Group : \_\_\_\_\_ Location : \_\_\_\_\_

Date : \_\_\_\_\_ Day Time : \_\_\_\_\_ Night Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Day time insects (A)		Night time insects (B)		Total (A+B)
Name	Number	Name	Number	

**Data Summary:**

Number of Insect Groups in the sample	
Total Number of individuals	
Number of diurnal groups	
Number of nocturnal groups	
Which insect group was abundantly represented?	
Which insect group was moderately represented	
Which insect group was least represented?	

**Conclusion:**

1. Why you think a particular insect was abundant, moderate, less? Give your own justification

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What type of feeding behaviour you noticed in these insects?

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\_\_\_\_\_

3. What did you learn from this exercise?

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