

ENTOMOLOGY AT UGA

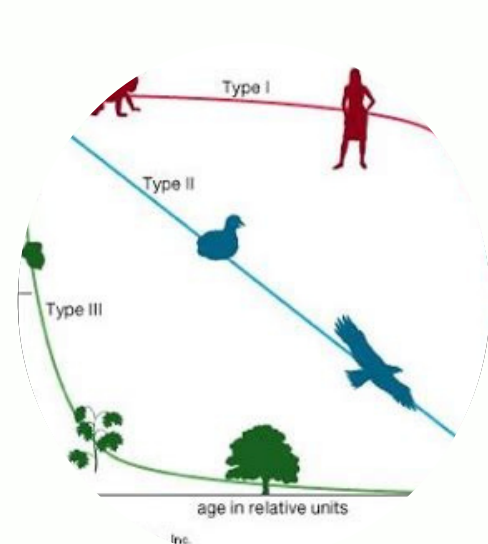


WHY ARE BUGS IMPORTANT?

Insects dominate terrestrial animals in numbers, biomass, and diversity. For example: 10 million in the average U.S. backyard, 500,000 fire ants in a mature colony, and 5,000 aphids can be found on soybean plants in the summer.

BIODIVERSITY IN INSECTS

Insects have 1.9 million known species, with 8,000–9,000 new species described annually. They play major ecological roles as pollinators, herbivores, decomposers, predators, parasites, and soil aerators, essential for crop and plant reproduction, ecosystem impact, and pest control.



K AND R SELECTED SPECIES

K and R selected species are different ways that organisms reproduce. K-selected species are usually larger (like humans) and live longer but have fewer offspring. Meanwhile, R-selected species are smaller (like ants), have many offspring and have short lifespans.

HUMANS AND INSECTS

We need bugs; if we did not have bugs, we would lose a lot of our plants. Bugs are pollinators and are the only way some plants reproduce. Bugs also give us things like honey, silk, and medicine.



ENTOMOLOGY

Entomology studies insects and their behavior, genetics, physiology, and how they impact our ecosystem. Entomologists like Dr. Kelly Carruthers are important as they help solve problems that involve bugs and our ecosystem.