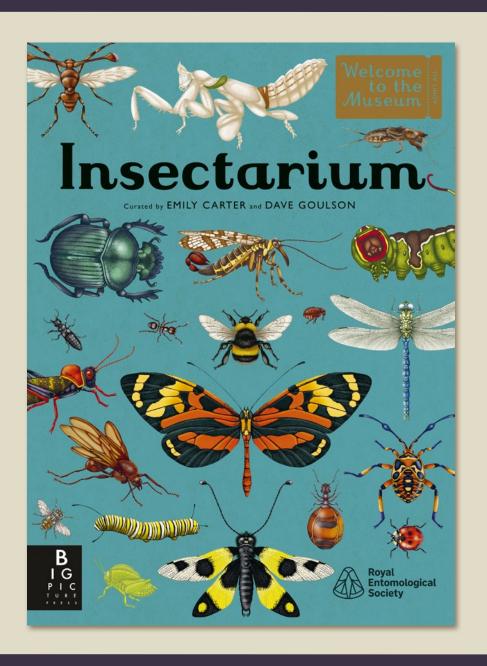
Insectarium



The next instalment in the Welcome to the Museum series, *Insectarium* explores the fascinating world of insects.

- A new Welcome to the Museum book in the highly successful collection - more than two million copies sold worldwide
- Beautiful artwork by textile designer, Emily Carter
- Environmental concerns and declining insect populations with potentially catastrophic consequences means that insects are a very popular and current topic of scientific investigation.

Insectarium

Mantises









WASPS, ANTS

Wasps

Wasps, bees and ants all belong to a highly successful group of insects known as the Hymenoptera, with 150,000 known species. The Hymenoptera contains most of the 'eusocial' insects – those that live in large nests with the majority of individuals being

The earliest known wasps appeared about 200 million years ago in the Jurassic period and today more than 100,000 species of wasp have been identified. When most people think of a 'wasp' the common yellow and black social species (known as yellowjackets in North America) comes to mind – the type that tend to cause a nusance at picnics. These are not typical wasps however. The large majority of known species of wasp are 'parasitoid' wasps solitary insects that as larvae live on or in hosts (usually other insects). These wasps invariably kill their host, bursting from its corpse in a manner that almost certainly inspired the movie Alien (1979). Most parasitoids are small and easily overlooked, and so it is highly likely that huge numbers of species are yet to be discovered.

regurgitated wood pulp. They create a light and strong papier maché that is fashioned into an insulating papery ball containing sheets of hexagonal honeycomb-like cells. In social wasps, the egg-laying tube of the female has evolved into a sting used particularly if the nest is under attack. The nests are typically short-lived, founded by a queen in early spring and dying out with the onset of autumn.

Wasps are much maligned, yet they serve many important functions as biocontrol agents and important pollinators.

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Habitat: Ponds, Streams and Rivers

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Key to plate

Philosekis biorgulum Length Up to 14mm A hardsome map, the beenst specialise in feeding on honey bees, which are paralysed and stored in burrows underground for the offspring to consume, Many females may nest near one another in dense

aggregations in sandy soil.

2: Giant Asian hornet species and has a potent sting.

d: Emerald cockroach wasp

d. Emerale coderach was Angular compensor langin Lip to 22mm This coloural Fares has a sinstem liberty in They are parasholds of large codesaches strings their pray in a particular part of its brain so that The winders ferrales resemble. a parciacy pair of close of the other three colorses have been continued to me. The colorses have been continued to the colorses have been colorses undersection of a promoted stage of the colorses when colorses the colorses that been colorses the colorses that been colorses the colorses the

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