

July 20, 2020

Entomology 105

The ant and the weevil



The Purple Bum Bee

Contributing author: Bob Germain

Contributing photographer: Bob Germain

I went to Reader Rock Garden the other day.



White-faced Meadowhawk

Normally I go



Black Bee Fly

just to photograph the flowers.



But this time



Hover Fly

I was more interested in photographing any insects



that happened to be buzzing around.



Coelioxys

I saw small, shimmering, green flies;



Dolichopodid

long, brown damselflies;



Emerald Spreadwing?

big, golden dragonflies;



White-faced Meadowhawk

and purple flower loving hover flies.



Hover Fly

And of course where there are insects



Hover Fly

there are spiders too.



Daddy Long Legs

I found purple bummed bees gathering purple pollen,



Leafcutter Bee?

one species of stink bug,



Twice-stabbed Stink Bug

and the newly-hatched babies of another.



The Brown Marmorated Stink Bug has five nymphal stages, or instars. The first instars have a "tick-like" appearance, are not very active, and remain around the hatched egg mass. <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/stink-bug/identify.php>

It turned towards me as I was taking it's picture, anger clearly written on its insect face. Even with one leg lost it was still defiant.



Many of the insects I see are likewise crippled, a damaged wing or a missing limb, just like this guy with its kinked wing. Clearly, life as an insect isn't always easy, especially without health care.



They glare back at you, that's something I've noticed about my insect friends, they don't always like to be photographed, they're just like people.



A National Geographic moment! The ant and the weevil. The unforgiving story of predator and prey.



But the weevil got away - this time.

