



Meet the Scientist!



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As an entomologist, I work with all types of insects, but I am specifically focused on those in wood and wood products.

Dr. Rachel Arango Entomologist

Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison
USDA Forest Service scientist

Important Scientist Characteristics

Curiosity is definitely the thing that has most helped me get where I am today. No matter how old you get there is always something out there to be curious about!

Example of a simple research question I have tried to answer:

The project I am currently working on focuses on termites and termite colonies in Wisconsin. Termites live in an environment that is full of microorganisms that could be potentially harmful to the colony. I am looking at ways in which termites control these microorganisms to ensure the continued health of the termite colony.

Technology or equipment used in research:

The main piece of equipment I use is a dissecting microscope. For most insects, they are too small to watch carefully with the naked eye.

Most Exciting Discovery

During a survey of a family of beetles in Wisconsin, I discovered a new species that I got to name after my advisor and mentor, Dr. Daniel K. Young!

When did you know you wanted to be a scientist?

Since I was a kid it had always fascinated me that there was this tiny world all around us that you could miss if you weren't paying attention. I can't think of anything more fun than studying insects.

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