



# Meet the Scientist!



As an entomologist, I study insect species and related arthropods that inhabit and interact in forest ecosystems. I also work with managing insect pests that have the potential to cause forest health issues in our nation's forests.

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<http://www.naturalinquirer.org>

### Important Scientist Characteristics

Patience and some type of standard way to do things are important as a scientist. Humans are creatures of habit and routine but scientific method and research depends heavily upon fact gathering and results. Math is also used quite a bit as well as literary skills with writing reports.

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

What insects are beneficial to the environment? There are many insects that we rely on in both the forest and agricultural landscape.

### Technology or equipment used in research:

BioSIM is a software program that integrates gypsy moth life history requirements, topography, and historical and projected weather data to output a risk of establishment map. Spray Advisor is another software we use to calibrate spray nozzles during aerial application of biological compounds. The biological compounds are sprayed to control the gypsy moth.

### Most Exciting Discovery

*Attacus aurantiacus*, an atlas moth from New Guinea that I collected while on a lepidopteran (butterfly and moth) survey for forest biodiversity.

### When did you know you wanted to be a scientist?

Forensic science was my first real interest in science as early as 10 years old. I realized I wanted to solve problems related to society and the environment in which I lived. I then became involved with forensic entomology which evolved into forest entomology.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/foresthealth/programs/gmtrap>