

**DIRECTIONS FOR COLLECTING  
AND PRESERVING INSECTS, PART  
F OF BULLETIN OF THE UNITED  
STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM,  
NO. 39**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649524822

Directions for Collecting and Preserving Insects, Part F of Bulletin of the United States National Museum, No. 39 by C. V. Riley

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**C. V. RILEY**

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SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.  
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM.

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DIRECTIONS FOR COLLECTING AND  
PRESERVING INSECTS.

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Part F of Bulletin of the United States National Museum, No. 39  
(with one plate).

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P  
WASHINGTON:  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.

1892.



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## INTRODUCTORY.

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There is a constant demand, especially from correspondents of the Museum and also of the Department of Agriculture, for information as to how to collect, preserve, and mount insects. There is also great need of some simple directions on a great many other points connected with the proper packing of insects for transmission through the mails or otherwise; labeling; methods of rearing; boxes and cabinets; text-books, etc. Interest in the subject of entomology has, in fact, made rapid growth in the last few years, and now that nearly every State has an official entomologist connected with its State Agricultural Experiment Station, the number of persons interested in the subject may be expected to increase largely in the near future. I have hitherto made use of the Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections, No. 261, which is a pamphlet on collecting and preserving insects prepared by Dr. A. S. Packard. This is out of print, and I have been requested by Prof. Goode to prepare for Bulletin 39, U. S. N. M., something that would cover the whole ground and give the more essential information needed for collectors and students of insect life. I have deemed it unnecessary to go too much into detail, but have studied not to omit anything essential. Customs and methods vary in different countries and with different individuals, but the recommendations contained in the following pages are based upon my own experience and that of my assistants and many acquaintances, and embrace the methods which the large majority of American entomologists have found most satisfactory.

Much of the matter is repeated bodily from the directions for collecting and preserving insects published in my Fifth Report on the Insects of Missouri (1872) and quotations not otherwise credited are from that Report. The illustrations, also, when not otherwise credited or not originally made for this paper, are from my previous writings. Some are taken from Dr. Packard's pamphlet, already mentioned; others, with the permission of Assistant Secretary Willits, from the publications of the Department of Agriculture, while a number have been especially made for the occasion, either from photographs, or from drawings by Miss L. Sullivan or Dr. Geo. Marx or Mr. C. L. Marlatt. When enlarged, the natural size is indicated in hair-line. In the preparation of the pamphlet I have had the assistance of Mr. E. A. Schwarz, and more particularly of Mr. C. L. Marlatt, to both of whom I desire here to express my obligations.

C. V. R.