

# **CSI: CRIME SCENE INSECTS™**

At Sloan Museum  
January 29–May 8, 2011

## What is CSI: Crime Scene Insects?

Inspired by the hit television show *CSI: Miami*, *CSI: Crime Scene Insects* is an interactive exhibit that explores one of the most fascinating areas of criminal investigation – forensic entomology. This popular exhibit has earned a reputation for appealing to broad audiences, from middle and high school students, to adults.

## Science in Life

Insects serve as a critical tool to help crime scene technicians solve crimes due to lifecycles in decomposition. Visitors to *CSI: Crime Scene Insects* observe real crime scene insects including carrion beetles, flesh-eating beetles, and blowflies and their maggots. Guests will see a live fly hatchery, as well as live beetle, termite, centipede, millipede and mite displays. The five stages of decomposition are also explored so that visitors can learn the role insects play in the natural progression from each stage. It is this information that provides forensic investigators with important clues used to successfully solve crimes such as time of death and even the cause of death. *CSI: Crime Scene Insects* – crime solving in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century!



In *CSI: Crime Scene Insects* guests also investigate recreated crime scenes to collect evidence, analyze it, and draw conclusions about the nature of crimes using real crime solving tools and lab equipment. The exhibit also details types of cases investigated by entomologists and how entomological findings are used in a court room to prosecute and convict criminals.



Open morgue drawers containing medical models of cadavers will be on hand: one drawer showing the insects that reside in a decomposing body shortly after death, and one showing a body in a more advanced state of decomposition. All *CSI: Crime Scene Insects* exhibits are handled with sensitivity and discretion. Nothing in the presentations are sensationalized, but are depicted to represent and reinforce scientific themes.



### Exhibit Stages

- ◆ Time line of forensic entomology from 13th-Century China to present day
- ◆ Insect models and computer interactives
- ◆ Stroboscopic sculpture "The Fly Wheel" that animates the fly life cycle
- ◆ Hundreds of insect specimens displayed individually or as "Insect Art"
- ◆ Live displays of insect life cycles and skeleton decomposers
- ◆ Field and lab equipment used by forensic investigators
- ◆ Realistic simulated crime scenes with life-size figures
- ◆ "Can you solve the crime?" case studies



***CSI Insects: A hands-on entomology experience for real world crime-solving!***

Visit <http://www.miamisci.org/www/csi-crime-scene-insects.php> for exhibit information.

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