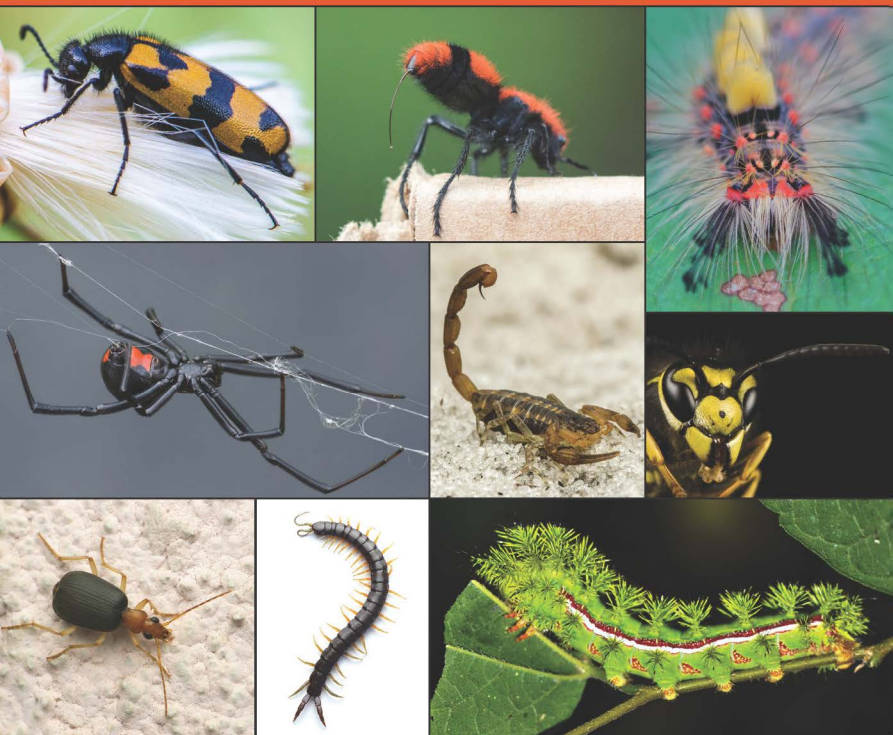


# "NO TOUCHY"

## ARTHROPODS OF ICHAUWAY



THE JONES CENTER AT  
ICHAUWAY

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**For additional info, scan here:**



## Southern Black Widow



- Enjoys privacy
- Smooth egg sacs
- Bite symptoms can include muscle cramps, severe high blood pressure

## Brown Widow



- Enjoys exposed areas
- Spiky egg sacs
- Bite symptoms are typically minor

## Brown Recluse



- Brown recluse has never been found on Ichaaway, nor is it likely to occur in Southwest Georgia
- Distinctive violin pattern and three pairs of eyes
- Harmless spiders are often misidentified as brown recluse
- Skin infections are often blamed as spider bites

## Brown Recluse Lookalikes



## Bark Scorpion

- Very active
- Appreciate dark areas such as under bark
- Sting pain similar to that of a bee



## Millipedes



- Not venomous
- Two pairs of legs per segment
- Some have glands that can produce irritating chemicals

## Centipedes



- Venomous
- One pair of legs per segment
- Sting pain similar to that of a bee

# TOXIC BEETLES

## Blister Beetles



- When rubbed or squashed, release hemolymph (blood) containing a blistering agent, cantharidin
- Elongated, cylindrical bodies of various colors
- False blister beetles look like blister beetles and can also cause dermatitis (skin irritation)



## Bombardier Beetles

Sprays a boiling hot, noxious chemical compound called benzoquinone from a rotating posterior orifice that allows them to aim the spray toward a predator

## False Bombardier Beetles

Can spray formic acid and acetic acid to deter predators

**Red head of a bombardier beetle**

**Black head of a false bombardier beetle**



Pssst! Scan here for a video of a bombardier beetle spraying!



## Toe-Biters



- Found in aquatic vegetation
- Inject painful digestive enzymes into their prey (fish and frogs)

## Velvet Ants



- Velvet ants are wasps (not ants!)
- Males have wings and cannot sting
- Though non-aggressive, females have an extremely painful sting
- You will often find them scurrying across open areas such as sandy roads

## Wasps and their Mimics

- Wasps (and bees) can cause painful stings and even dangerous allergic reactions
- The best way to avoid getting stung is to remain calm
- Wasps are tremendously diverse and provide important ecological services such as pollination, biological control, and decomposition



Wasps

Bees



## Harmless Wasp and Bee Mimics



## Scorpionflies

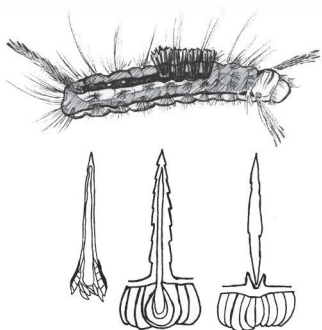
- Are neither scorpions nor flies
- Belong to the order Mecoptera
- Have elongated rostrum or “beak”
- Males have genitalia resembling a scorpion sting, but they are harmless





# TOXIC CATERpillARS

Some caterpillars are covered in toxic spines which can break off if touched, become embedded in skin, and cause pain



## Toxic



*Megalopyge opercularis*  
Puss caterpillar



*Phobetron pithecium*  
Hag caterpillar



*Orgyia leucostigma*  
Tussock moth caterpillar



*Automeris io*  
Io moth

## Non-Toxic



*Agraulis vanillae*  
Gulf-fritillary caterpillar



*Malacosoma americanum*  
Eastern tent caterpillar



*Junonia coenia*  
Common buckeye



*Battus philenor*  
Pipevine swallowtail

# SAFETY TIPS for dealing with DANGEROUS ARTHROPODS

Most arthropods in Georgia are harmless.

Arthropods deserve the same respect and interest as other animals. Bugs are cool, and ecologically important, but some just need to be approached with care.

Use caution when lifting logs, rocks, and other structures that provide crevices for arthropods to hide. Use forceps, a collecting jar, or your camera to observe without directly touching.

Many arthropods use *aposematism* (warning signals) to tell you “Leave me alone!”

This might include:

- Bright colors like red, orange, and yellow
- Tentacles
- Protruding hairs

If you are bitten or stung, wash the area of wound to prevent infection.

If you are bitten or stung by a medically important arthropod, consider seeking medical attention.



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