

Freakish, bewildering marvels of the world of arthropods (arachnids, insects, and other many-legged) are on display in **Dr. Entomo's Palace of Exotic Wonders**. Resembling an old-fashioned circus sideshow, this educational exhibit explores the myths and mysteries, and ultimately the fascinating truths surrounding some of nature's most interesting creatures – many of them alive and on view.

Those daring enough to enter will be captivated by the deceptive and treacherous defenses these animals employ on unsuspecting predators. They will learn about how the Giant African Millipede, though harmless-looking enough, can unleash a harmful cyanide secretion. The "Devil with Two Heads," also known as the Vietnamese Centipede, exposes how it can confound predators with a tail that looks just like its head.



Visitors to this captivating exhibit will also discover why other arthropod offenders like the Black Widow Spider and Desert Hairy Scorpion are held in the "Rogues Gallery" for their wild behavior on charges of suspected murder and home invasion. "Living Mummies" showcases the Giant Mealworm, revealing how this amazing creature can appear mummified only to re-emerge in a new form, and curious visitors can find out whether the Goliath Bird-Eating Tarantula lives up to its name.

# Design Elements and Story Line

To capture the essence of the traveling circus sideshow, large (6x8 foot), colorful hand-painted banners introduce the visitor to the inhabitants they are about to meet. They also give the first impression of the topic about to be explored, and delineate each story being told. The exhibit is divided into eight sections:

- Introduction/Entrance
- Glowing Terror
- Mummies Alive
- Mama Nature's Chemical Factory
- The Devil with Two Heads
- The Rogues Gallery of Criminals
- Theatre of the Macabre
- "The Gaff"
- Dr. E's Kitchen Cabinet of Curiosities



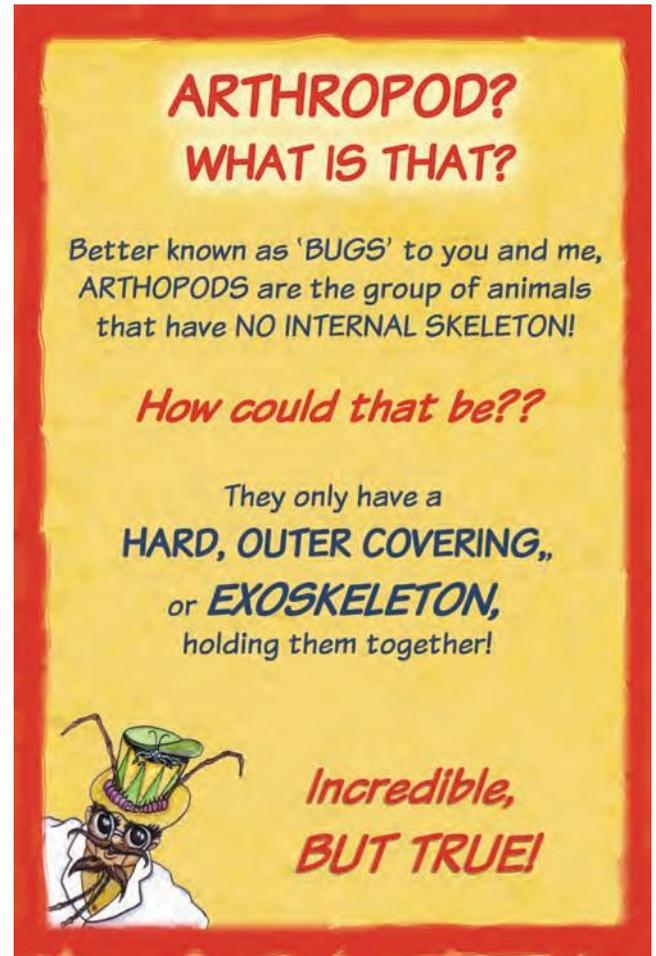
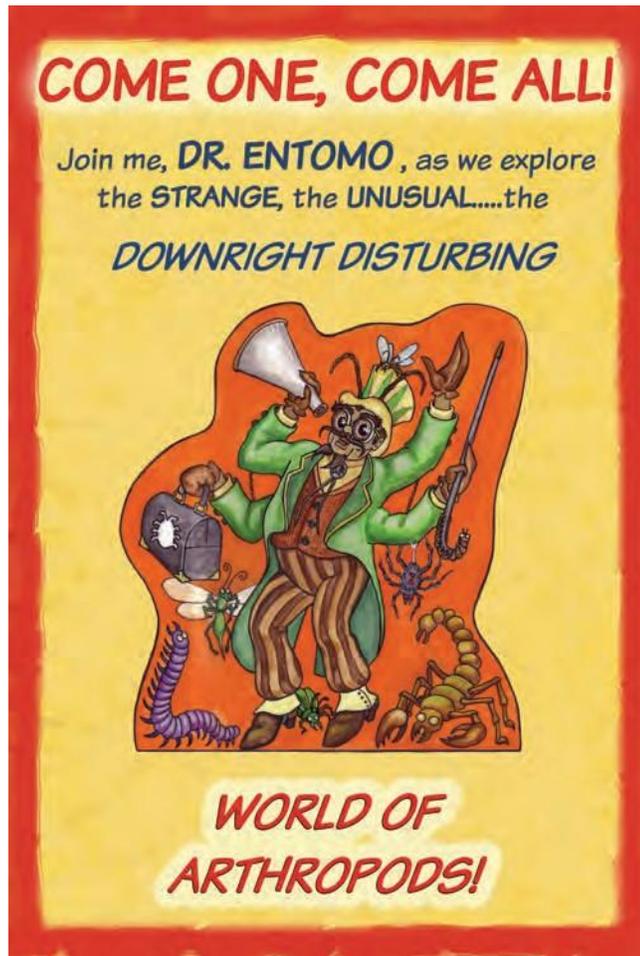
Each section presents a new concept based on the natural history of the animal(s) on display. In some instances, the visitor is challenged to question their own beliefs about the true value of “bugs” and their kin, and is presented with many educational opportunities for independent learning.



***“Our family had such a great time and learned more than we thought we would!” Heidi P.***

# Introduction and Entrance

Upon entry the visitor will experience a brief but important message about what defines an “arthropod”. Armed with this information they will proceed into the viewing arena. Our self-contained exhibit components are flexible in their layout to accommodate virtually every gallery space.

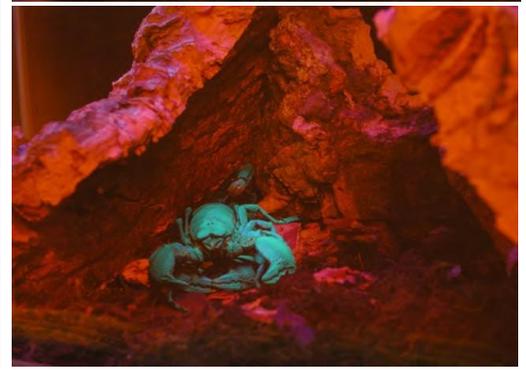


***“One of the most educational and fun outing my family has had! Thank you, Dr. E!” -Paul N.***

## *“Glowing Terror!”*



Did you know that scorpions glow under ultraviolet light? No one is quite sure why, and it remains one of mother nature’s mysteries. Visitors can witness this phenomenon themselves when they activate the black light on our resident Emperor Scorpions.



*“I have to admit we were skeptical about going but the kids said it was the best ever!” Erin T.*

# “Mummies Alive!”



METAMORPHOSIS and change are the themes here. Many insects undergo a complete transformation as they grow from eggs to adults. This is beneficial to the species as the young often have different diets as the adults so there is no competition for food resources between them.

In ‘complete’ metamorphosis there are three stages: larva, pupa, and adult. Our lively insect ambassadors are perfect to illustrate this and are housed, according to their development, within the body of our mummy in three containers. The pupae of this species reminded us of Egyptian mummies who were the transitional stage between the living and the afterlife.



Animals displayed: Giant Meal Worms, Darkling Beetle (*Tenebrio molitor*)

# “Mama Nature’s Chemical Plants”



DEFENSE MECHANISMS in the form of bad-tasting or even poisonous chemical secretions are used by many different types of ‘bugs’ and are explained in this section of the exhibit.

Giant African Centipedes give their would-be predators a surprise by emitting foul-tasting cyanide compounds, and the aptly-named Vinegaroon uses its delicate whip-like “tail” to broadcast its salicylic acid solution, better known as vinegar!



Animals on Display:  
African Millipede: (*Spirostrepia* sp.)  
(captive bred)  
Vinegaroon (*Mastigoproctus gigantus*)

Interactive: *Vinegar Vaporizer-pump* action gives the illusion of extracting vinegar by emitting vinegar vapor.



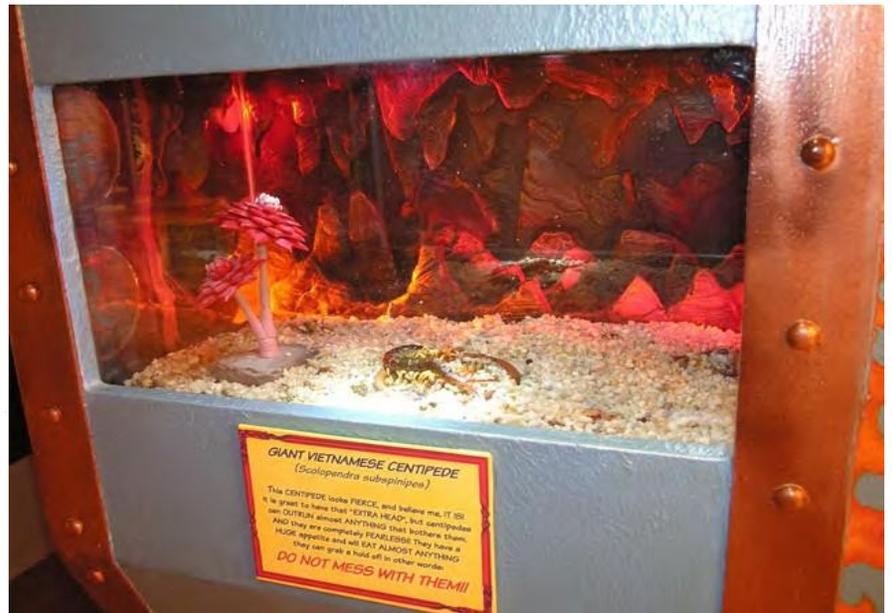
## *“The Devil with TWO Heads!”*



*Now you see me, but which way am I headed?! Choose wisely! One end can BITE!*

In addition to being quick, strong, and having an insatiable appetite, giant centipedes have a false head for a tail that can also confuse a predator so that they can quickly run away into the night. Can YOU tell which end is which?

Animal on Display: Giant Vietnamese Centipede (*Scolopendra subspinipes*)

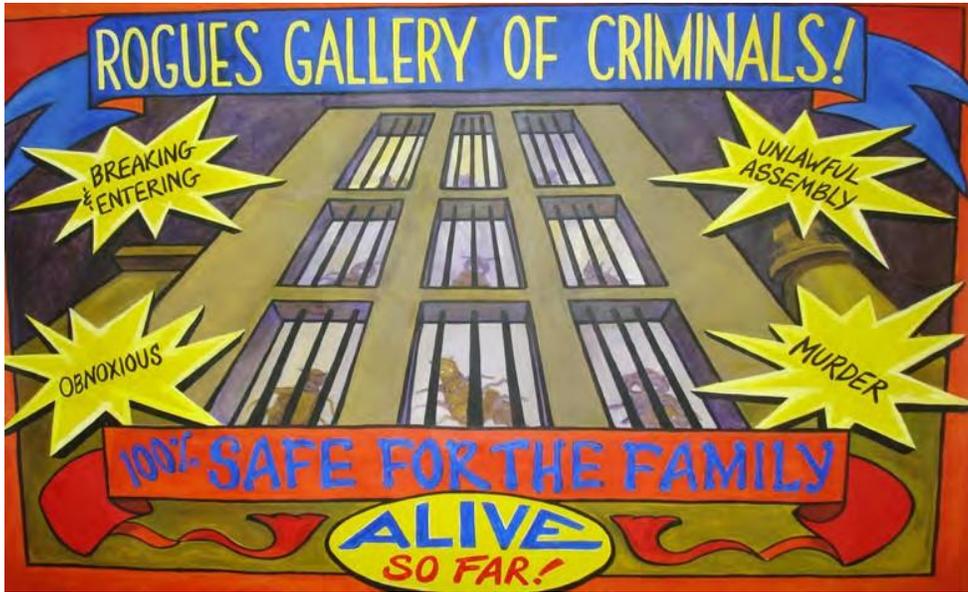


**GIANT VIETNAMESE CENTIPEDE**  
(*Scolopendra subspinipes*)  
This CENTIPEDE looks FIERCE, and believe me, IT IS!  
It is great to have that "EXTRA HEAD", but centipedes  
are CUTE! almost ANYTHING that bothers them,  
AND they are completely FEARLESS! They have a  
MIDE appetite and will EAT ALMOST ANYTHING  
they can grab a hold off in other words.  
**DO NOT MESS WITH THEM!!**



*If pressed, many entomologists will admit that large centipedes still creep them out!*

# The Rogues Gallery of Criminals!"



Feast your eyes on some of the most notorious and dangerous bug criminals in our time – OR ARE THEY??

This section explores common myths and misconceptions in a fun and engaging way. By presenting bug criminals “behind bars”, the visitor is asked to decide the guilt or innocence of each individual, based on their supposed crime.



Dept of Entomological Infractions		STATEMENT of the ACCUSED
<b>NAME:</b> <i>Lactrodectus mactans</i>	<b>ALIASES:</b> Black Widow Spider	
<b>OCCUPATION:</b> Harmless Hunter		
<b>CRIME ACCUSED OF:</b> First Degree Murder		
	Eating my mate? Who says?! First of all, you'd hardly recognize him, he's much smaller than me. Second, he usually runs away after he...gives me his genes. And if he's slow or in a jar with me, well...it IS hard to tell the difference between 'im and my food, what with my poor eyesight and all!	

Dept of Entomological Infractions		STATEMENT of the ACCUSED
<b>NAME:</b> <i>Hadrurus arizonensis</i>	<b>ALIASES:</b> Desert Hairy Scorpion	
<b>OCCUPATION:</b> Predator		
<b>CRIME ACCUSED OF:</b> Home Invasion		
	You may THINK your home is 'bug'-proof, but guess again! I'm happy in almost any nook or cranny, and YOUR SHOE is a perfect fit! After a long night of hunting in the desert, I like nothing more than to curl up for the day in a cool, dry place!	

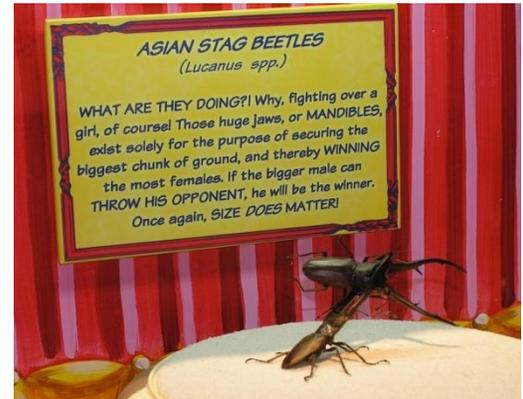
Animals on display: Various tarantulas, black widow spider, wolf spider, American cockroaches, Desert Hairy scorpion, house crickets, praying mantis, Goliath Bird Eating tarantula



# “Theatre of the Macabre”



While most ‘bugs’ live quiet lives, some ‘bug’ behaviors are so bizarre they’re downright disturbing! From using balls of dung or even a living spider for a nursery, to sumo-wrestling beetles, this section highlights some weird and whacky “bug” behaviors.



Mounted Specimens on Display:  
Dung beetles, tropical butterflies,  
stag beetles, Pepsis wasp.

# "The Gobb"

Behold the TER-ANT-TULA! Part Termite, Part Ant, Part Tarantula, All TERROR!



What sideshow would be complete without the inclusion of a fantastical creature with a fantastical, completely illustrated backstory that challenges you to decide:

**Is it REAL? Or is it FAKE?**



# “Dr. E’s Kitchen Cabinet of Curiosities”



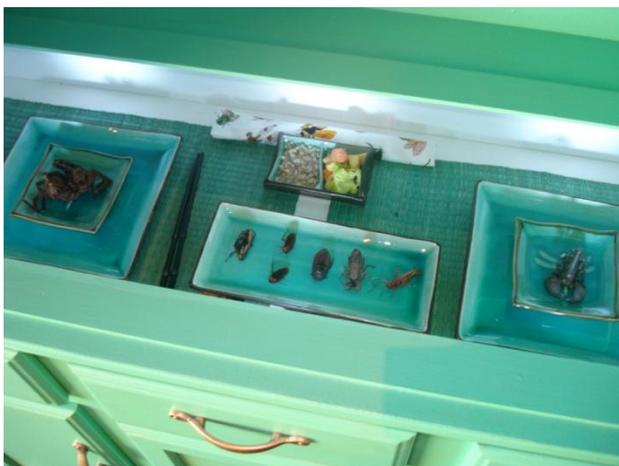
Bugs...as FOOD?? With even the World Food Organization promoting bugs as a good source of protein, “entomophagy”, or the consuming of bugs, has become a hot topic. A visit to Dr. Entomo’s Kitchen Cabinet gives us a “taste” of some buggy delights.



A trip around to the other side of this component reveals a “Seek and Find” mural showcasing amazing “invisible” stick insects – now you see them, now you don’t!

Also included in the cabinet are Madagascan Hissing Cockroaches, (*Gromphodrhina portentosa*)

Mounted specimens on display: Asian Stick Insects, preserved water bugs, scorpions, and other edible bugs.



# CURRENT SPECIES LIST

- **Madagascan Hissing Cockroaches** - *Gromphodorhina portentosa*
- **Zebra Tarantula** - *Eutholus sp.*
- **Rose-Haired Tarantula** – *Grammastola cala*
- **Emperor Scorpion** - *Pandinus emperor*
- **Whip Scorpion** - *Mastigoproctus gigantus*
- **Desert Hairy Scorpions** - *Hadrurus arizonensis*
- **African Millipedes** - *Spirostrepida gigantus (captive bred)*
- **Giant mealworms/Darkling Beetles** – *Tenebrio molitor*
- **Giant Sonoran Centipede**- *Scolopendra heros*
- **Vietnamese Centipede** – *Scolopendra sp.*
- **Goliath Bird Eating Tarantula** – *Theraphosa blondi*
- **Black Widow** – *Latrodectus mactans*
- **Chinese Mantid** – *Tenodera aridifolia sinensis*
- **American Cockroaches** – *Oeriplaneta Americana*
- **Vinegaroon** – *Mastigoproctus gigantus*
- **Wolf spider** – *Lycosidae spp*
- **House Crickets** – *Acheta domestica*
- **Brazilian White Knee Tarantula** – *Acanthoscurria geniculata*

# SPECIFICATIONS

*Exhibit Size: 2,500 to 3,000 Square Feet*

*RENTAL FEE: Please contact us*

*AVAILABILITY: Fall 2020, Spring and Summer 2021*

*RENTAL FEE INCLUDES:*

- On Site installation by Outhouse staff
- All livestock throughout the run of the exhibit
- Staff training and support throughout the run of the exhibit
- Tear down and packing of exhibit by Outhouse staff at venue's end

*For More Information Please Contact:*

Mia Schillace Nelson  
[mia@outhouseonline.com](mailto:mia@outhouseonline.com)  
612/961-0782

*For More Information:*

<http://www.outhouseonline.com>

<http://www.drentomo.com>

