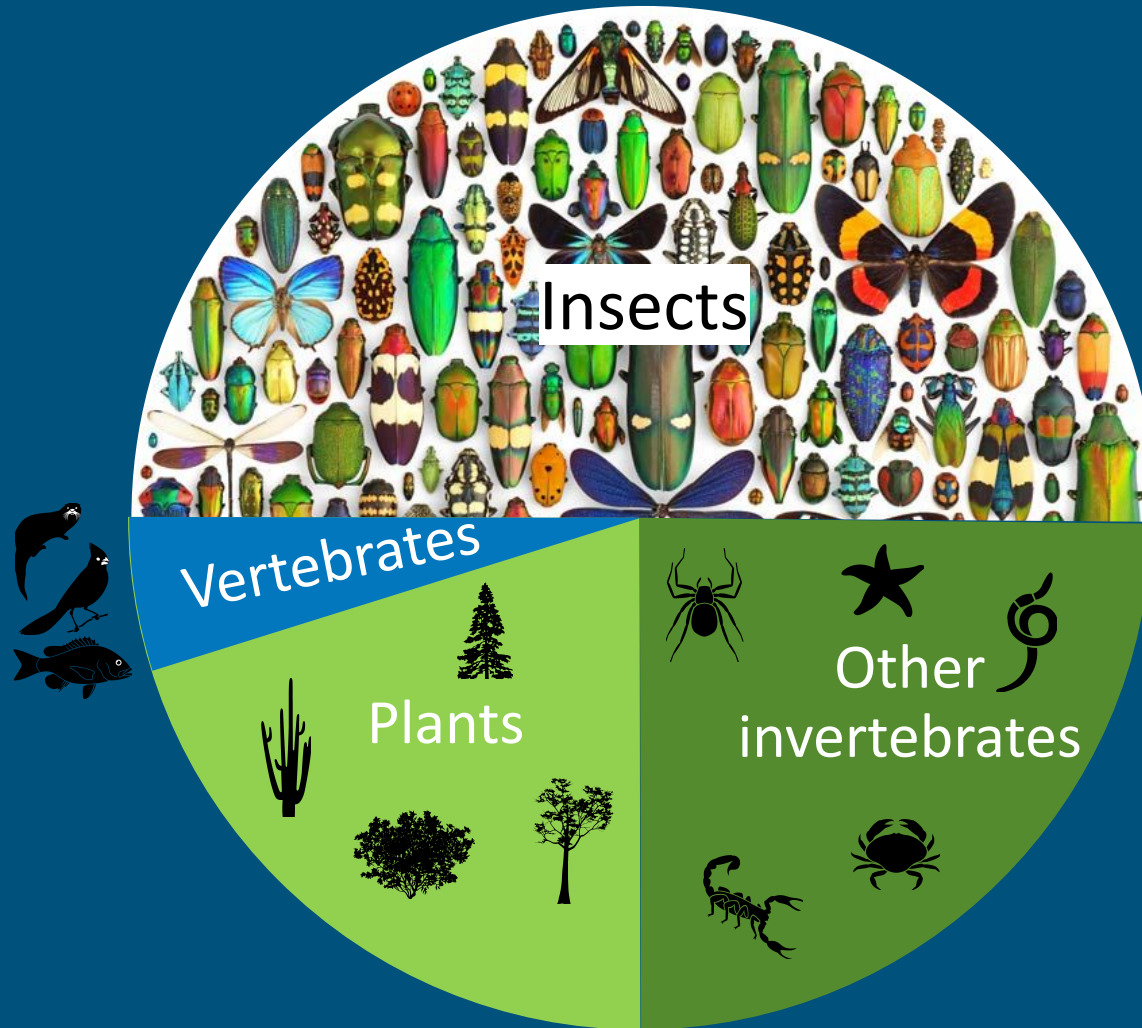




Insect Diversity

1 million species of insects described

Estimate 2.6 – 7.8 million



Enormous diversity and found in most environments !!!



On flowers!



In the ground!



Even in your house!



In water!



In the sky!

Can survive in harsh environments too!



Rockcrawler



Various desert insects

Aspirating cave insects



Insects are important elements in ecosystems

plant feeders

predators

decomposers

pollinators

vectors of disease

forensics



A world without insects?.....

Why are insects so abundant and diverse?

- Small size
- High reproductive potential
- Short generation time
- Resistance to environmental extremes (dormancy, diapause, aestivation)
- Readily adapt to changing conditions
- Dispersal via flight



Let's go find some insects!!!

- Field trip to catch a few insects.
- Let's look at their body structures, behavior, coloration.
- Note 3 interesting things about each insect.

