

Entomology in GA

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Introductory Comments

- Land Grant/Public University Role
- UGA Entomology Department
- Dept. of Entomology Issues and Concerns
- Mosquito/Vector Control - Issues
- GMCA's Role in our Programs
- Bottom Line - Conclusions

Entomology is Unique

- Entomology affects the lives of all citizens
- Insect control and damage cost in GA around billion \$ per year.
- Almost all insects are beneficial
- Employment opportunities are excellent

Land Grant/Public University

- Historical Perspective
- Use Inspired Programs
 1. Teaching
 2. Research (Applied and Basic)
 3. Extension and Outreach
- Future Role ??

Department Focal Areas

- Urban Entomology
- Insect Pathogen Interactions/Vector Biology
- Insect Pest Management – Various Areas
- Molecular Biology/Biotechnology
- Insect Biology/Systematics
- Ecology and Environmental Entomology

Department – Current Activities

- Budget Cuts – (July 2000 – 2005) cumulatively, 26%.
- 2006, 2007 Budget Years – Status is we are recovering.
- State added back cotton IPM faculty member in 2006.
- Continuing funding for formosan termite work.

Insect Host/Pathogen Interactions

- Plant vector biology position in Tifton – joint with Plant Pathology.
- Two new positions in Entomology to be filled this year in insect-pathogen interactions.
- Plant Vector Biology to be expanded next year.
- Department has requested enhancement money from University System Board of Regents for Vector Biology for medically important diseases in man and animals.

Medical Ent./Vector Biology

- Mosquito Physiology (Mark Brown)
- Vector Biology (Don Champagne)
- Black Flies/Vector Control (R. Noblet, E. Gray, Jay Overmyer)
- Med. Ent. Teaching (Don Champagne)
- Extension and Outreach – livestock and public health (E. Gray & N. Hinkle)

Mosquito Control Concerns in GA

- State, county and municipal budget cuts & losses due to overall state of the economy
- Environmental issues and policies – Perceived and Real – eg. pesticides, nutrients, pharmaceuticals re. water quality
- Public perception and buy-in re. mosquito control and management issues
- Vector borne diseases & public health

GMCA's Role in Dept.

- Provide support through political process as is required in publicly supported institution.
- Be an ambassador for mosquito control
- Assist in local educational programming activities and opportunities
- We are your Dept. of Entomology
- Inform us of your needs for training etc.,

GMCA,s Role in Dept. II

- Continue to build strong GMCA
- Cultivate leadership in GMCA and take leadership role whenever possible in GMCA
- Assume leadership role in community educational programs re. Mosquito Control, and in environmental and health issues
- Assist us through political & community activities relative to the legislative process and fund raising

GMCA's Role II

- Working together, we can continue to improve mosquito control programs in GA.
- As a public institution, we need your support as you work locally, and as you address state needs.
- Keep us apprised of your educational and training needs
- Entomology affects everyone and UGA
Entomology remains committed to excellence in use inspired research, teaching and extension programs.

Vector Borne Disease - Future

- World politics and terrorism
- National Security: health, agrosecurity, biosecurity
- National and world economic issues
- Funding patterns and priorities for national and international agencies
- Number of adequately trained field experts

Concluding Thoughts

- Entomology and Mosquito Control are vital areas of regional, national and international importance.
- Future will continue to be challenging, and will require more creative and collaborative work than ever before.
- Thanks for the invitation and your support