

OSU MG Study Group Diagnostic Show-and-Tell Highlights: April 2, 2018

Prepared and photographed (except where noted) by Elizabeth Price

Join our friendly OSU MG Study Group on the first Monday of each month from 1 to 3 pm for Diagnostic Show-and-Tell. Have fun while learning! We explore bugs, diseases and more. Below are a few samples of what MGs brought to our last session.

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Bed bug (*Cimex lectularius*)

Judy brought in an insect we hope never to see in our homes—the dreaded bed bug. It had hitchhiked in on her granddaughter's sweater. Judy recognized it, plucked it off, dropped it in a Petri dish, gave it a quick freeze and saved it for our Monday session. (Master Gardeners who come to Study Group tend not to be squeamish.) Bed bugs—often mistaken for ticks—have one pair of vestigial wings that are reduced to wing pads that look a bit like epaulets. The bed bug's pronotum (neck region) is distinct and confirms that it's a bed bug and not a nymph of some other Hemiptera species, which it also resembles. Parasites that live solely on blood, bed bugs can go months without feeding but must imbibe a blood meal to molt and advance through each of the five instar stages. As if bed bugs weren't loathsome enough, the males 'traumatically inseminate' the females in a mating ritual that, frankly, I'd rather not put into print, but that I encourage you to read about, preferably not while eating.

For more information: [Bed Bug Biology and Behavior](#)

Bed bug, ¼" (l)



Pronotum
Wing pads

Bed bugs have one pair of vestigial wings.



Checker lily (*Fritillaria affinis*)

Elaine brought in a sample of one of the Pacific Northwest's most beautiful native wildflowers. This darling perennial can be found in open sunny forests from British Columbia to northern California. Apparently, flower color can be quite variable, ranging from solid purple, to the checkered purple and cream it's named for, to pure yellow. They are known for not flowering every year, a habit called 'shy flowering.' The leaves are long and narrow. It's worth the effort to find a drier spot with rich soil in the home garden for this sweet native plant. For more information: [Washington Native Plant Society](#)

Checker lily



Flower color is variable, from purple to checkered to yellow.

How to catch a mole (*Scapanus* spp.)

Eric gave a tutorial on how to set traps for moles, which he has a 40-50% success rate in catching.

- Be sure to wear gloves throughout the process to conceal your scent.
- Wait until you see two mole hills, so you know where to look for the tunnel.
- Plunge a long screw driver into the ground between the two mounds to locate the tunnel.
- Dig out a hole out of the tunnel large enough to accommodate the trap.
- And then, taking great care not to spring it on your own fingers, set the trap with the tongs and place it in the hole the long way.
- Mound soil under the paddle, which triggers the trap.
- Cover the trap with black plastic or a bucket.
- Check the trap every couple of days. Put the dead mole in a plastic bag and toss in the trash.



Victor trap



Hole for trap

Tongs for setting traps



For more information: [Mole Management](#)

NOTE: Images by Eric Jacobson