Promoting Entomophagy in American Universities

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Background and Perspective

- Born and raised in Madison, GA on a horse and cattle farm with four siblings, grew up eating bugs for fun
- B.A. Biology, Georgia College and State University, 1997
- M.S. Entomology, University of Georgia, 2001
  Thesis – “Effects of algae on the efficacy of Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis (Bti) against larval black flies (Simulium Vittatum)”
- Ph.D. Entomology, University of Georgia, 2009
  Dissertation – Developing, Implementing, Assessing and Evaluating Service-Learning in Entomology Tuition Remission Program (Full time Staff & Part time Ph.D.)
Service-Learning

- Experiential Education
- Community Partners
- Mutually Beneficial
- Reflective
- Sustainable
- Connected to the curriculum
Service-Learning in Entomology

- Developed two service-learning courses
  - Entomology Outreach and Service-Learning
    - 30 hours of outreach in the community for 20 students each semester = 600 hours of insect outreach
  - Insect and Bird Natural History in Costa Rica
    - Service-learning projects while abroad (teaching entomology in Costa Rican school, donating insect collections, bring K-12 teachers each year (12 total) and recent high school graduates doing entomology internships or service-learning (4 total)
Entomophagy at UGA

- As part of courses
  - Insects and the Environment (Lecture)
  - Entomology Outreach and Service-Learning (partner with the H.O. Lund Entomology Club)
    - Fall Insectival ~1500 people
    - Spring Insect Zoo ~ 700 people
      - Students prepare and bake insect cookies, pizza, brittle, etc. and serve to participants
Entomophagy in the Curriculum in American Universities

- Entomology Departments Surveyed
  - ~50 Departments and units total
  - As part of courses (Lecture)
    - Insects and People, Insects: Friends and Foe, Insects and Society, Insects and Human Culture, Insects and Human Society, Insects: An Introduction to Entomology, Insects in the Environment, Bugs and People
  - As part of an outreach program or local museum
    - Cal Day, Insectival, Insect Zoo, Insectapalooza, Bug Bowl, Insectarium, etc.
American Entomology Departments

- 50% have an entomophagy lecture in a course or annual outreach event
  - Auburn, UC Berkley, Florida, Georgia, Illinois @ Urbana-Champaign, Montana State University, Purdue, Iowa State, Kentucky, Louisiana State, Tennessee, Wisconsin-Madison, Texas A&M, and Cornell
American Entomophagy Courses

- Stand Alone Courses
  - UC Davis – Insects as Food
  - University of Connecticut – Insects, Food and Culture
  - University of Minnesota (Department of Anthropology) – Anthropology of Food
  - University of Montana – Health, Agriculture and Poverty
Perceptions

- Children
- University Students
- Community Members
The Future of Entomophagy

- Cross-linked interdisciplinary entomophagy courses (entomology, anthropology, food sciences, nutrition)
- Professional development opportunities
- Incorporating service-learning (or field experience) into the curriculum of American universities
- Incorporate entomophagy into more department, professional society events as the “norm”