Carlos Museum Bug Scavenger Hunt: Worksheet

Learn about how conservators investigate pest damage in the Museum. Read the following scenarios for clues about each case, and use the information in the bug booklet to choose the most likely culprit in each scenario. Objects like these are on display in the Museum’s galleries. Maybe you’ll recognize them on your visit!

You can access the bug booklet at: http://carlos.emory.edu/bug_worksheet

Note: The following scenarios are pretend examples of pest damage that could occur in a museum, but there are no ongoing insect problems at the Carlos Museum – Emory University.

Scenarios:

1. Conservators first noticed signs of pest damage in the Classical galleries. White, threadlike debris was found in a dark corner inside a Roman marble sarcophagus. Tiny black stain marks were observed on nearby surfaces.
   
   A. Webbing Clothes Moth  
   B. Varied Carpet Beetle  
   C. Powder Post Beetle  
   D. Cellar Spider  
   E. Silverfish

2. During a particularly humid summer, the air conditioning in the museum went out briefly. Shortly afterward, conservators spotted damage in the Works on Paper gallery. This print had uneven edges underneath its mat board. Several small holes were observed in the top right corner, and in some spots, the paper appeared to be worn thin.

   A. Webbing Clothes Moth  
   B. Varied Carpet Beetle  
   C. Powder Post Beetle  
   D. Cellar Spider  
   E. Silverfish
While the weather was still humid, another area of damage was discovered on a coffin in the Egyptian gallery. Pin-sized holes were observed on the surface of the wood, and small piles of wood dust were noticed underneath the object.

A. Webbing Clothes Moth  
B. Varied Carpet Beetle  
C. Powder Post Beetle  
D. Cellar Spider  
E. Silverfish

Conservators found traces of bug activity on a costume in the African gallery. The fabric had spots where the threads appeared thin and bare, but no holes went all the way through. In the shadows near the object’s stand, conservators noticed small, fuzzy looking bits of debris.

A. Webbing Clothes Moth  
B. Varied Carpet Beetle  
C. Powder Post Beetle  
D. Cellar Spider  
E. Silverfish

In the special exhibit gallery, conservators found more signs of bug pests on a textile. The natural wool fibers of the textile appeared to have small tears and rips. The damage was located in a hidden corner that received little light. Pale yellow debris was found in the bottom of the case.

A. Webbing Clothes Moth  
B. Varied Carpet Beetle  
C. Powder Post Beetle  
D. Cellar Spider  
E. Silverfish

Answers:  A B C E D