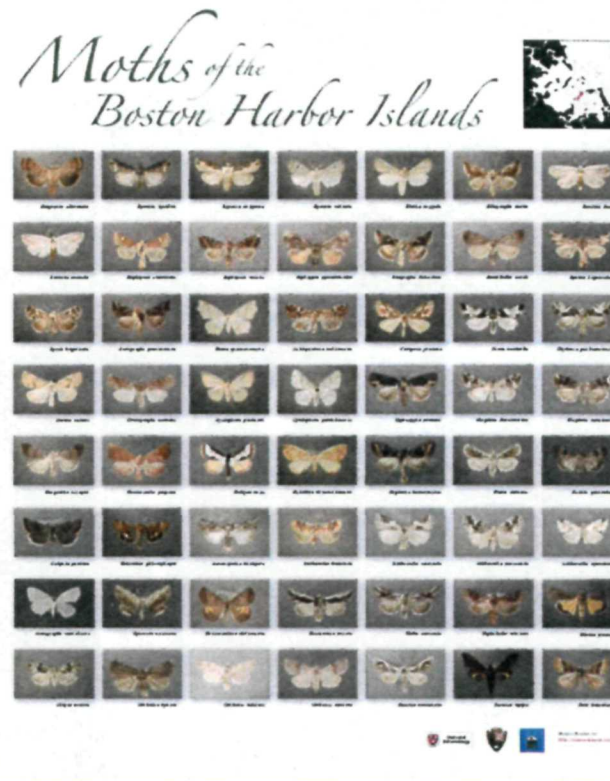


Get involved:

Students, professionals, and the general public are encouraged to get involved with the ATBI

- **Volunteer in the lab**—High school and college students work in the lab at Harvard University to help sort specimens.
- **Connect your research with the ATBI**—Scientists and undergraduates conduct independent research projects on the islands associated with the ATBI. The park will assist efforts of researchers contributing to the project.
- **Participate in a public program**—Events, such as the 2006 “Beetle Blitz,” attract amateurs and specialists alike to document species on the islands. Park rangers lead a variety of biodiversity programs throughout the year.
- **Attend a workshop**—Teachers attend biodiversity workshops to learn about the ATBI and how they can get students to participate.
- **Follow the discoveries**—A website is currently being developed that describes the ATBI in more detail, provides educational information about insects, and links to the ATBI database.



Posters focusing on various insect groups provide stunning visual examples of local biodiversity and can be used for educational purposes.

For more information visit:

<http://www.bostonislands.com/biodiversity>
http://insects.oeb.harvard.edu/boston_islands

Or call: 617-223-8666

BOSTON HARBOR ISLANDS



a national park area



All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory

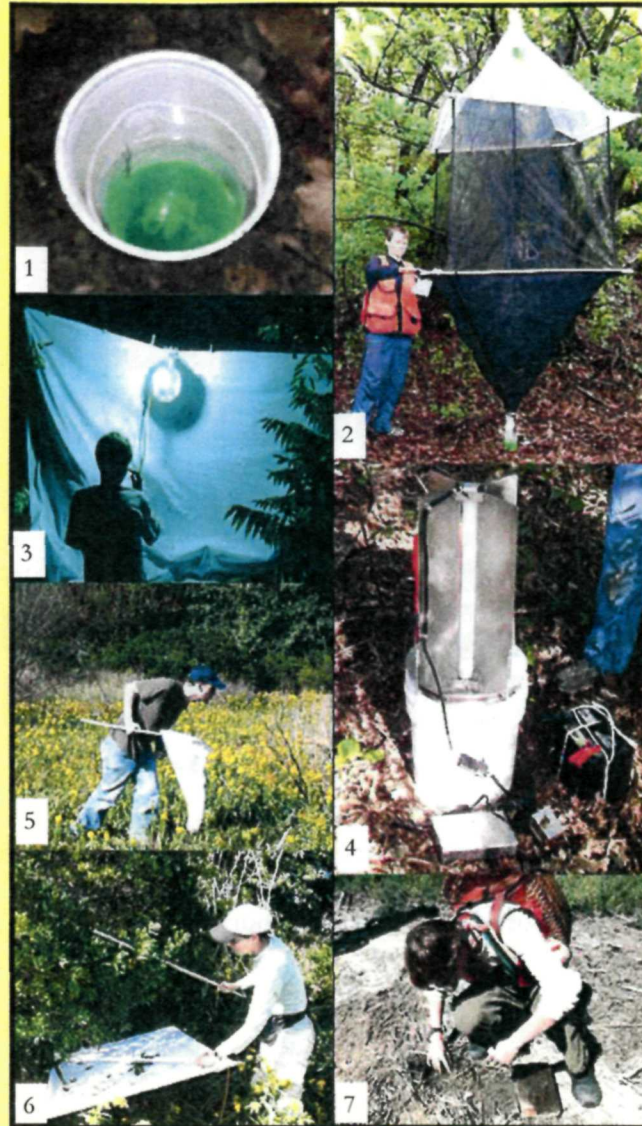


What is an ATBI?

An All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI) is a scientific inquiry to document all of the species living in a particular area. Such efforts are being conducted in parks and other locations worldwide, including on the Boston Harbor Islands. Harvard University and the Boston Harbor Islands Partnership are collaborating to inventory the “microwilderness” of the islands, namely, insects and other invertebrates. This extremely diverse group of animals is easily sampled, yet often overlooked. Our goal is to combine scientific research with public education, and to foster an appreciation for the amazing biological diversity that exists on the islands.

Primary objectives of the ATBI:

1. Conduct an inventory of insect species across the park.
2. Educate and excite the public about biodiversity on a very local scale by making all parts of the ATBI publicly accessible.
3. Use biodiversity data to inform resource management in the park.



How are the insects sampled?

Trapping methods for insects vary depending on the habits of the species. For instance, pitfall traps (photo 1) target ground-dwelling animals, while malaise traps (2) capture flying insects. Nocturnal species are often attracted to mercury vapor and ultra-violet lights (3,4). Active methods such as nets (5), beating sheets (6), and searching by hand (7) are also effective for catching all sorts of insects.

What happens to the captured insects?

Apart from the larger, well-known insects, such as butterflies and dragonflies, most insects must be taken back to the lab and studied under a microscope to determine their species. Expert taxonomists from across the continent are sharing their expertise to assist us with species identification. Representative specimens of all insect species captured on the Boston Harbor Islands will be permanently stored and displayed at Harvard University. Specimen records, species distributions across the islands, and state-of-the-art digital images will all be stored within a publicly accessible biodiversity database.

