

7 Top Tips for Better Insect Photos

“Insect Photography Basics”


Wild Oakland – Joaquin Miller Park, April 20, 2013

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7 Top Tips #1

Know “You’re going to get dirty”

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- Wear the right clothing
 - Get close-up (hands & knees, into brushes)
 - Get to where the insects are
 - Stay for a while (water, food, sunblock, hat)

7 Top Tips #2

Use Close-up Settings & Techniques

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- a. Closed aperture
 - b. Faster shutter speeds
 - c. Ring flash or Ring light
 - d. Rock steady set

7 Top Tips #3

Slow Down

a. Subject

b. YOU (Patience, Patience, Patience)



A close-up photograph of a dark brown, textured beetle, possibly a weevil or similar insect, resting on a light-colored, textured surface. The beetle's body is covered in fine hairs or granules, and its legs are visible. The background is a blurred, light-colored surface with some small white specks.

7 Top Tips #4

Take Good Field Notes

- a. Write down your goal
- b. Good notes include – location, date, weather, plant prominence, colleague names, mood


7 Top Tips #5

Shoot Like Crazy!

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- A close-up photograph of a dark, textured beetle, possibly a weevil, on a light-colored, textured surface. The beetle is the central focus, with its body covered in fine hairs and its legs visible. The background is a blurred, light-colored surface with some small white specks.
- a. Numerous photos of the same subject
 - b. Shoot from multiple angles
 - c. (Also) Shoot
 - a. Location
 - b. Features
 - c. Ecology
 - d. People

7 Top Tips #6

Apply Regular Good Photography

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- a. Get the subject's eyes in focus
 - b. Fill the frame
 - c. Try to show action

7 Top Tips #7

If you're really serious get a DSLR

- a. SLR Lenses are better
- b. There is more control over settings
- c. Some include GPS / WiFi / Metadata