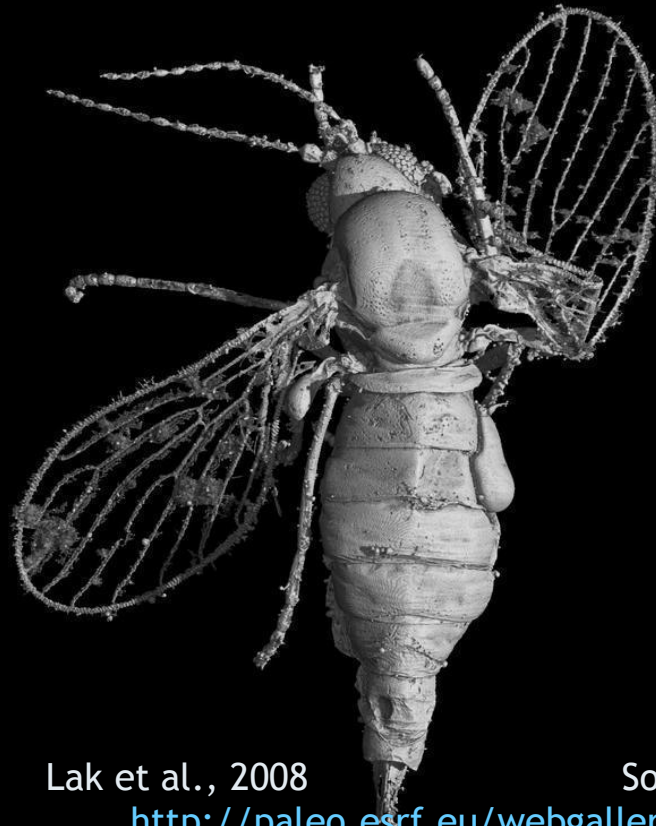


A Deep Time Approach to Studying Environmental Change



Dena M. Smith

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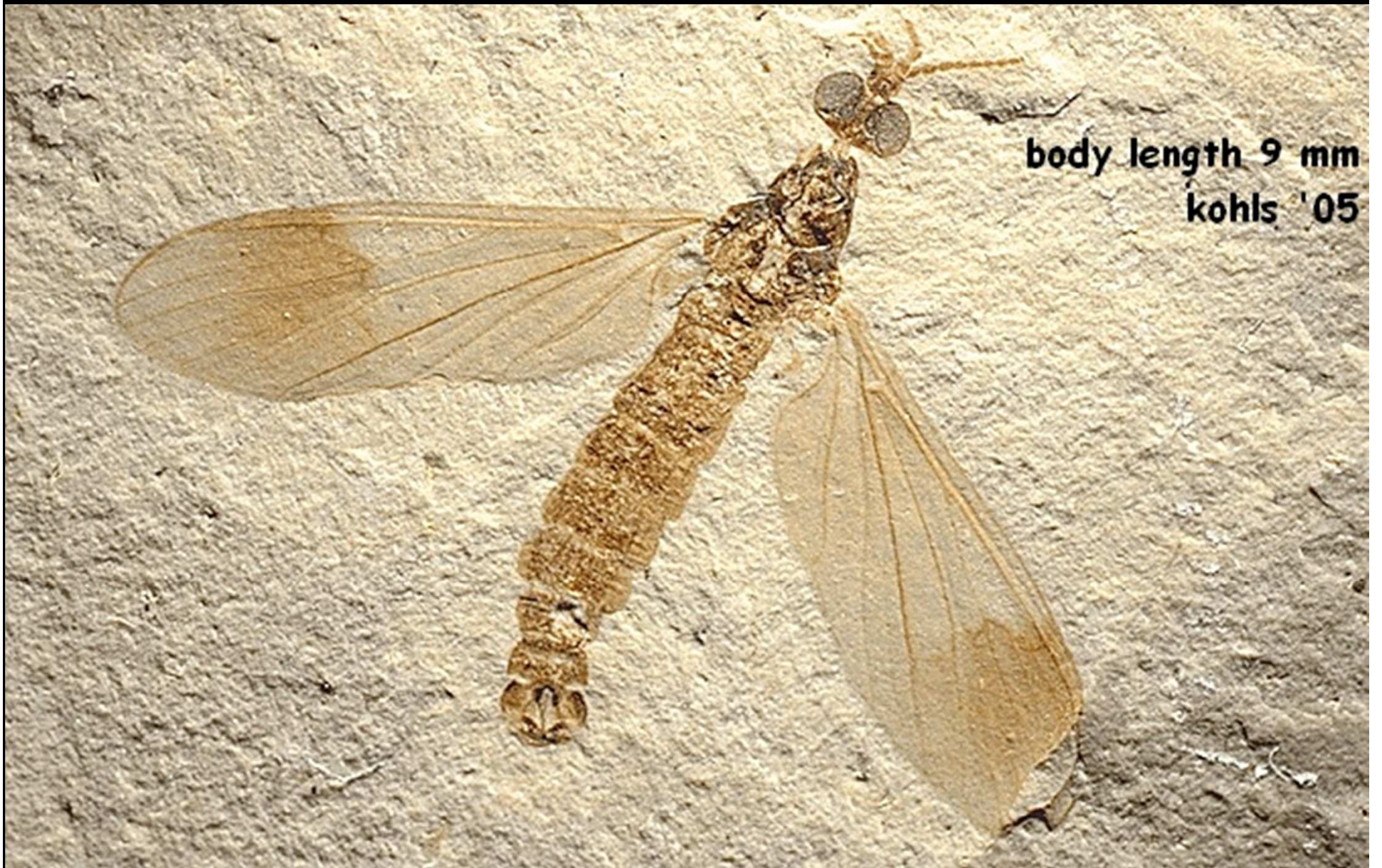


Lak et al., 2008

Soriano et al., 2010

<http://paleo.esrf.eu/webgallery/index.php>

X-ray tomography

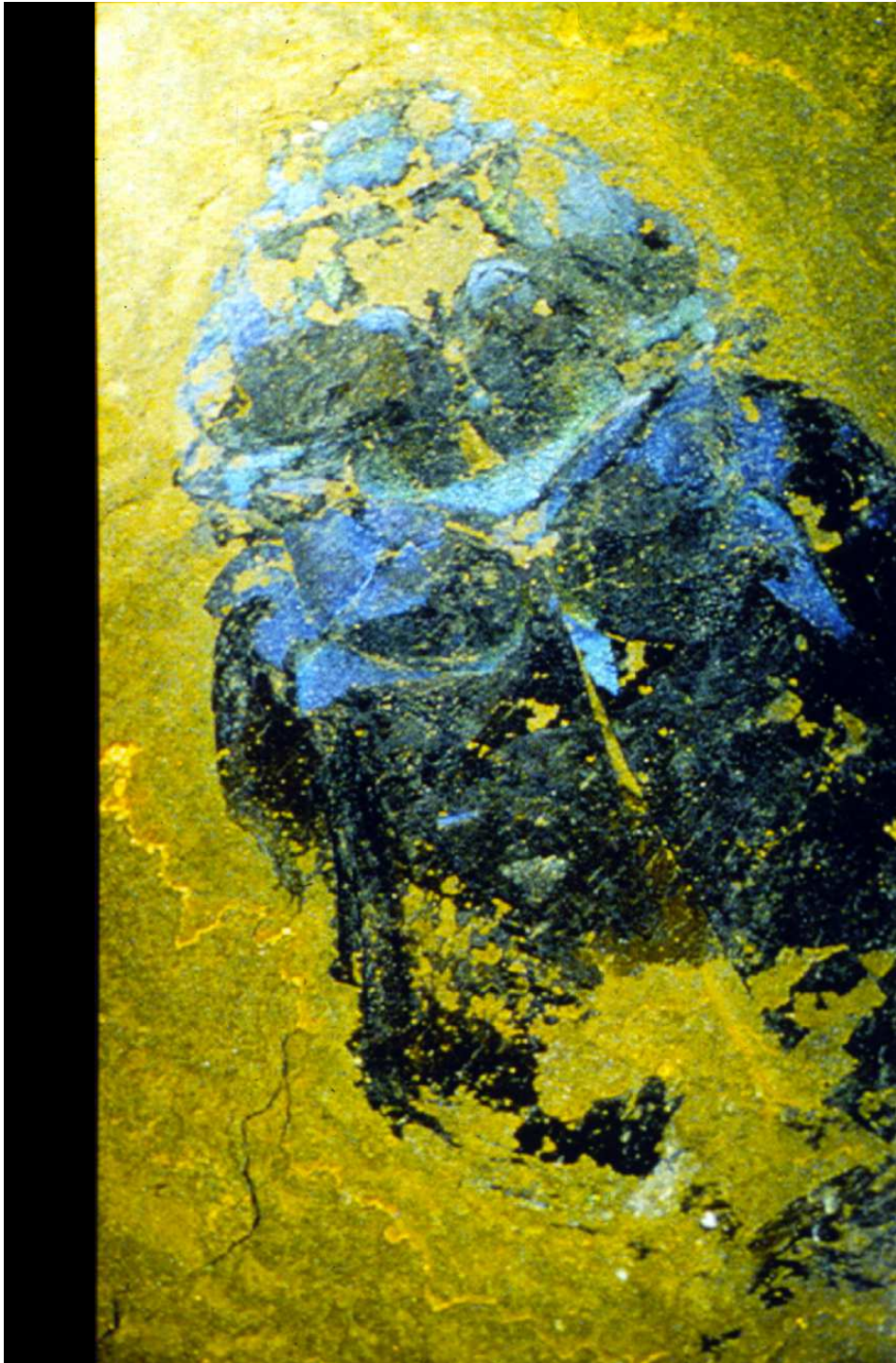


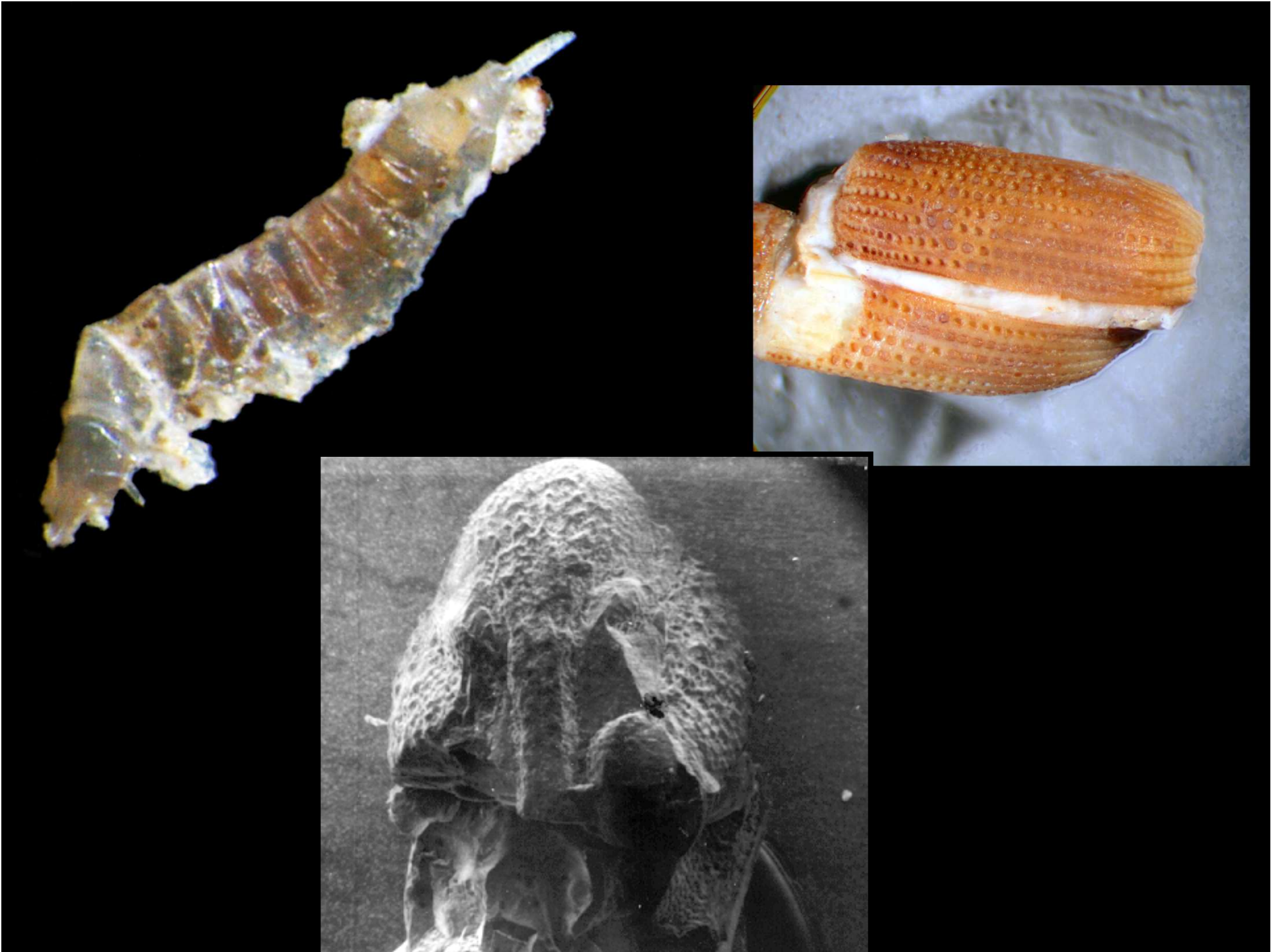
body length 9 mm
kohls '05



compound eyes (ommatidial facets), edge to edge 2 mm, kohls '05









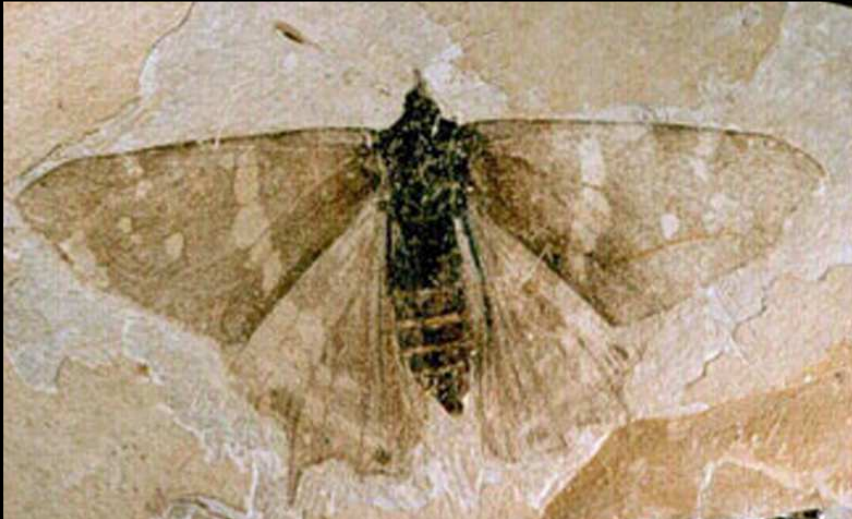
Insect Fossil Record

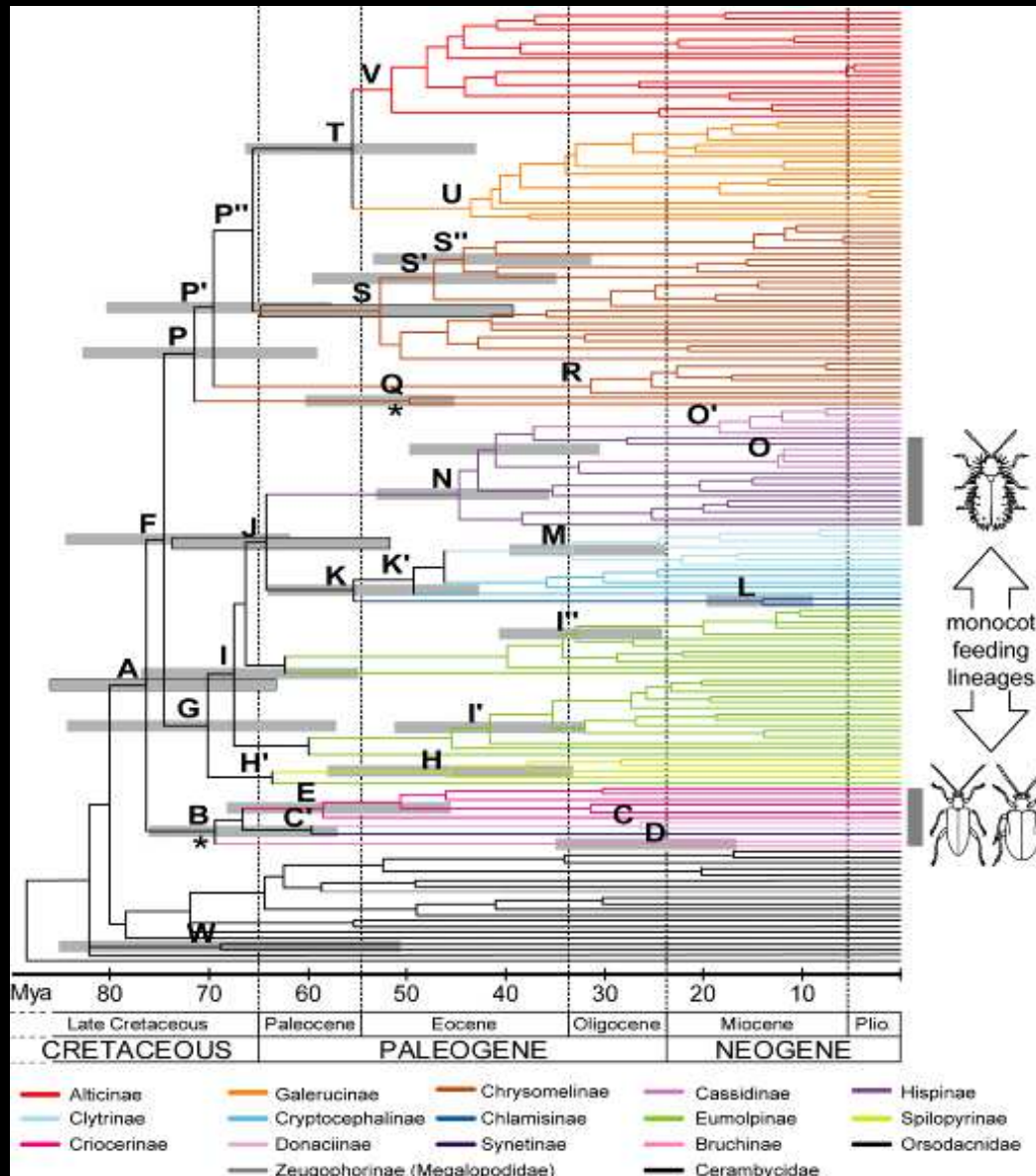
First insects appear in the Early Devonian (396-407 Ma)

All modern insect orders have been fossilized

Find full range of morphologies

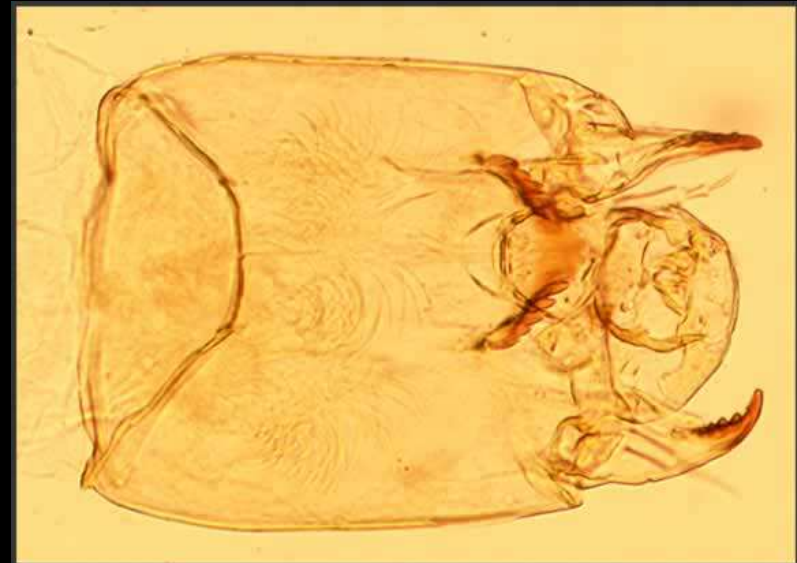
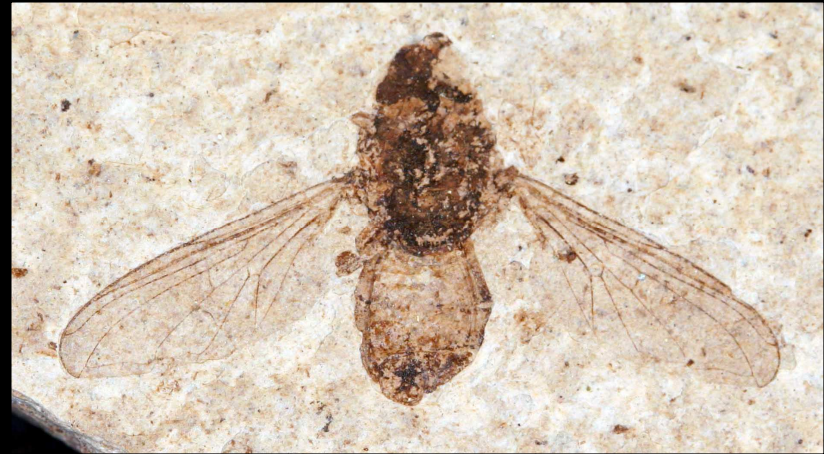
Find full range of ecologies





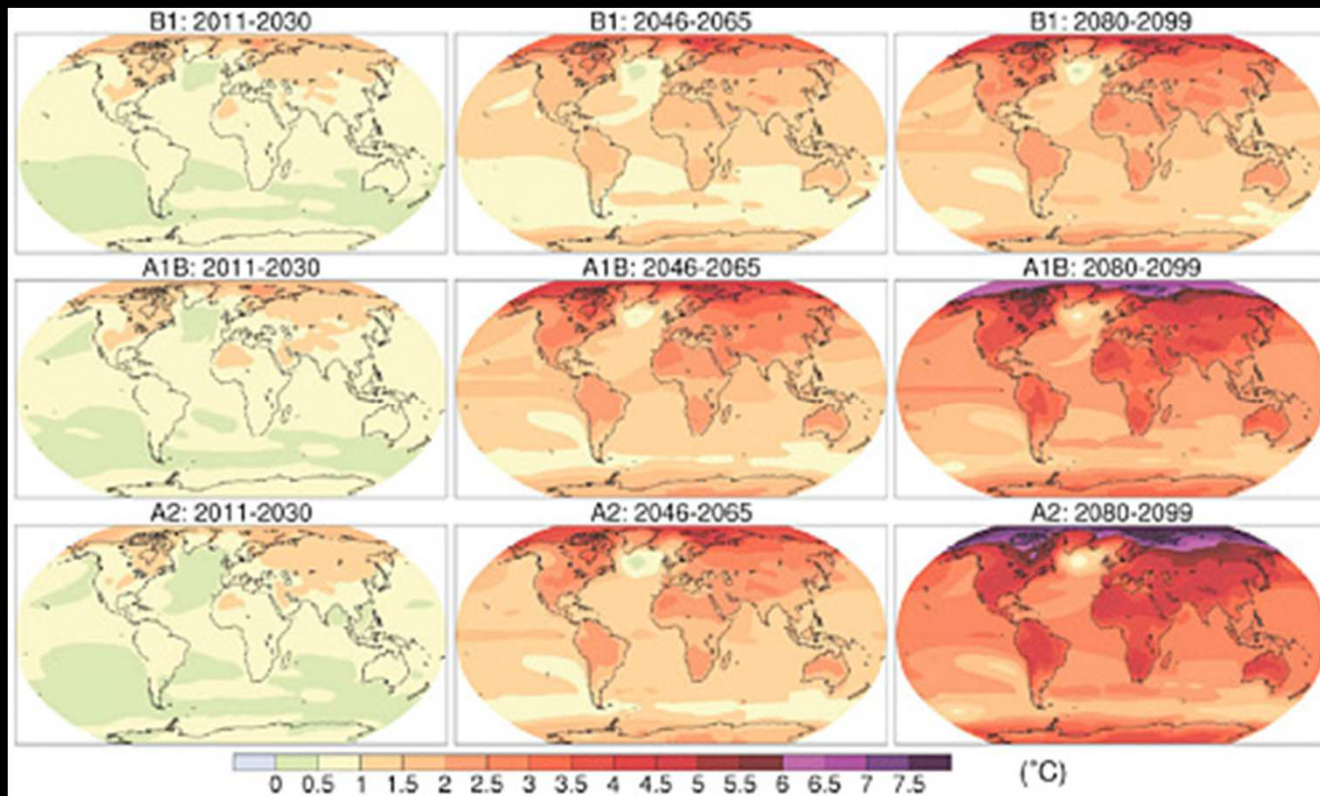
Gómez-Zurita J, Hunt T, Kopliku F, Vogler AP (2007) Recalibrated Tree of Leaf Beetles (Chrysomelidae) Indicates Independent Diversification of Angiosperms and Their Insect Herbivores. PLoS ONE 2(4): e360. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0000360
<http://www.plosone.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.pone.0000360>

Fossil Insects as Environmental Indicators



Modern climate change

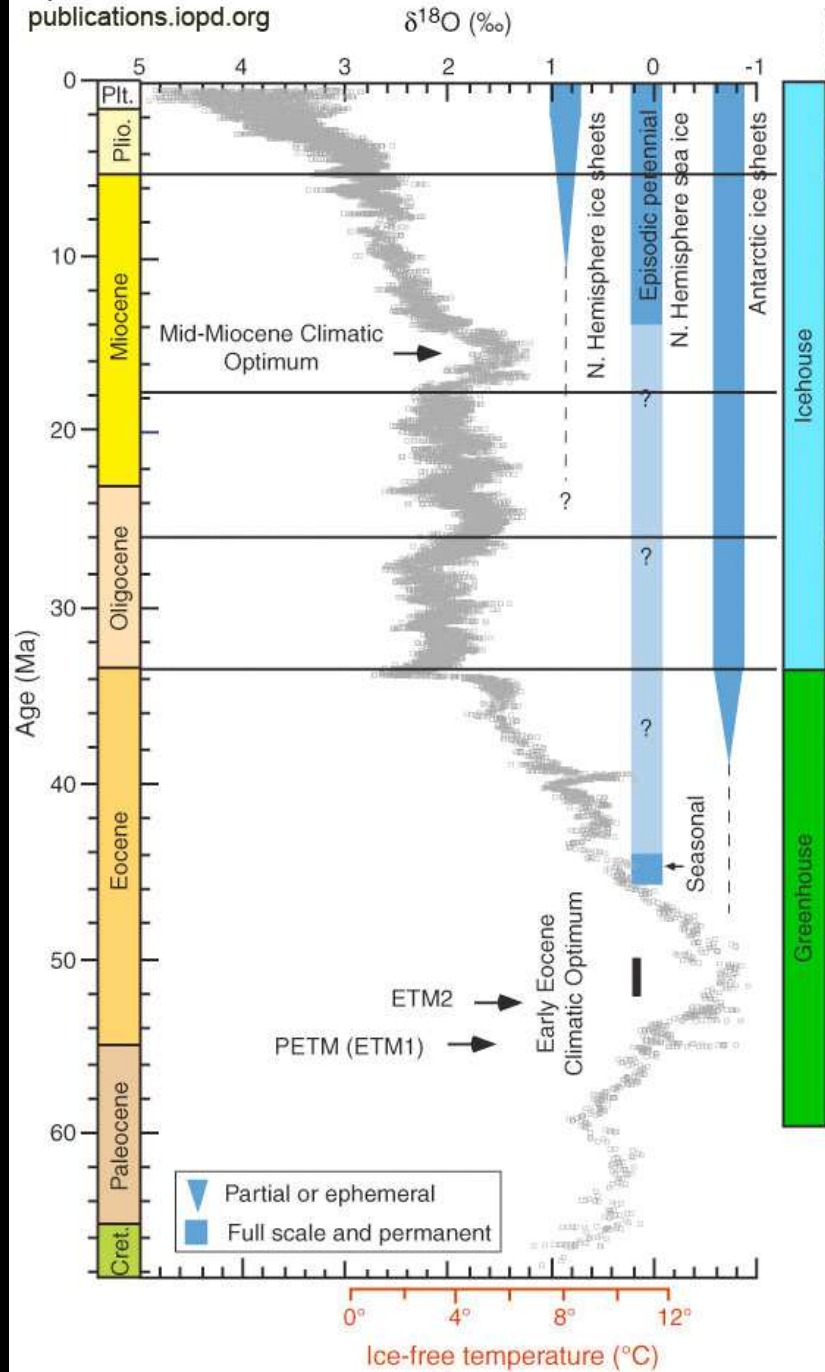
- The Earth's average surface temperatures have increased by 0.6 ± 0.2 °C over the last century (IPCC 2001).



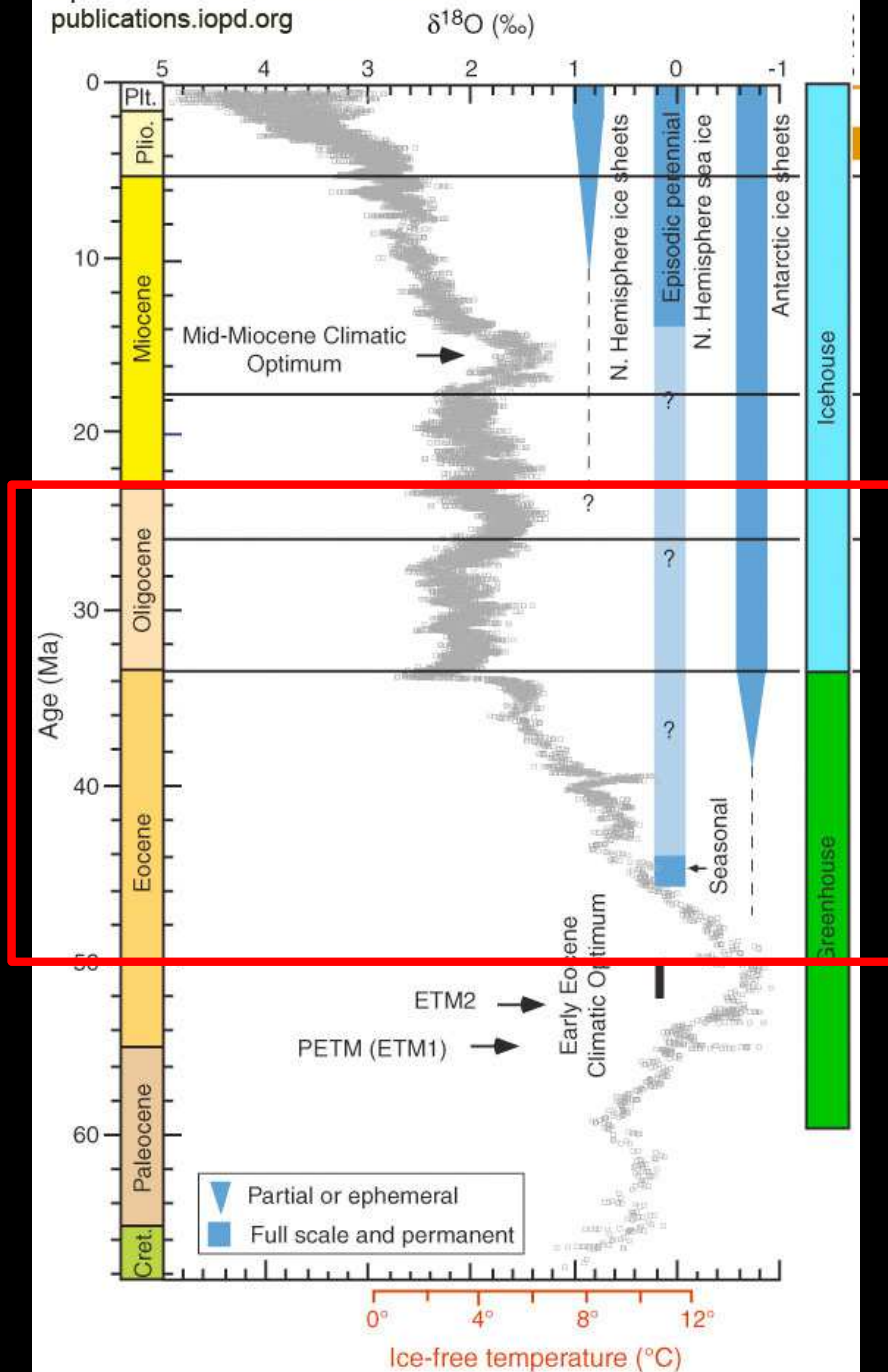
Modern climate change

- **This has had a dramatic affect on the world's biota.**
- **We still don't know what species traits will make some groups more likely to respond, and which traits make groups more vulnerable to extinction.**

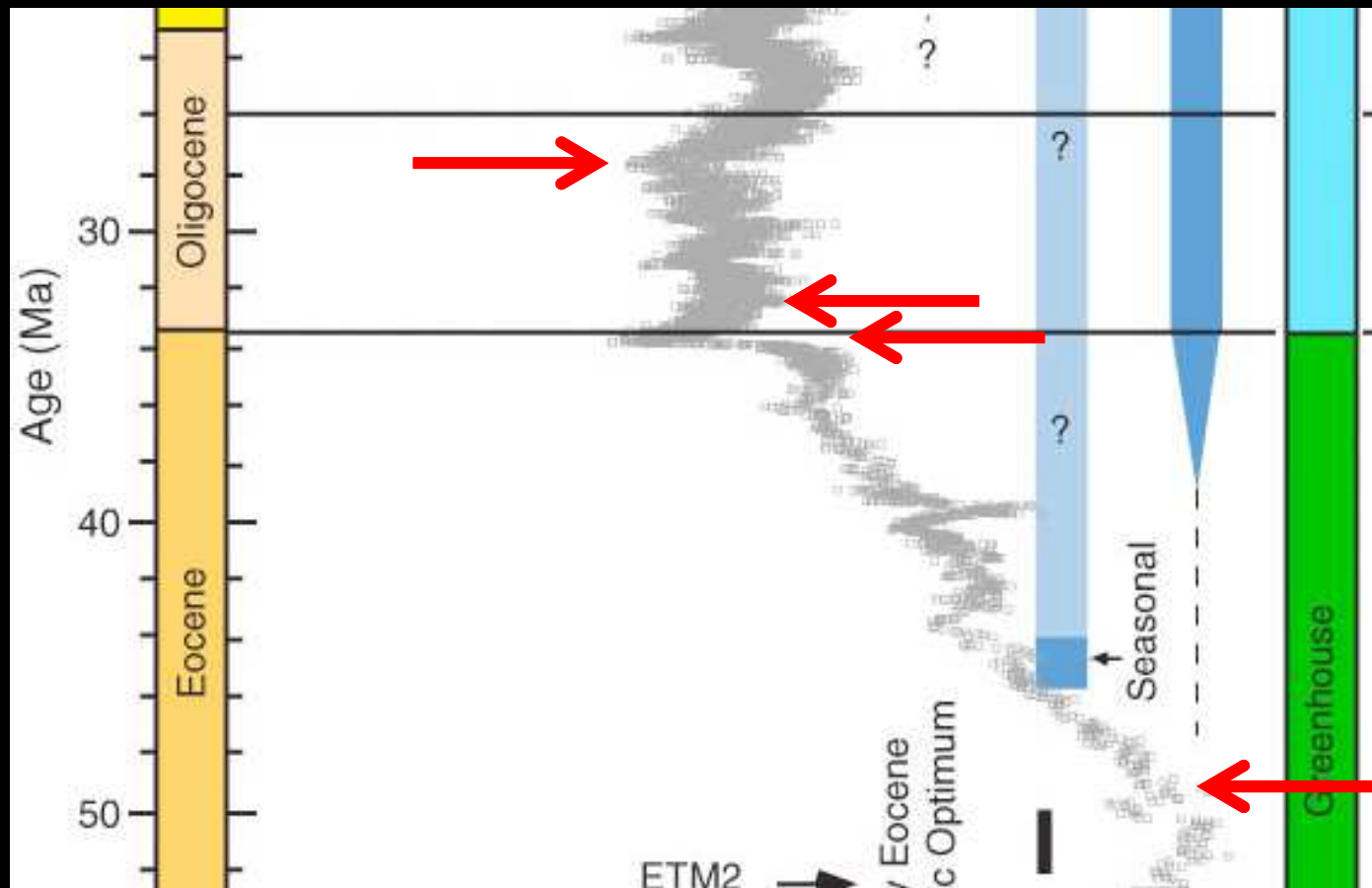
Updated from Zachos et al 2008
publications.iopd.org



Updated from Zachos et al 2008
publications.iopd.org



CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE EOCENE-OLIGOCENE



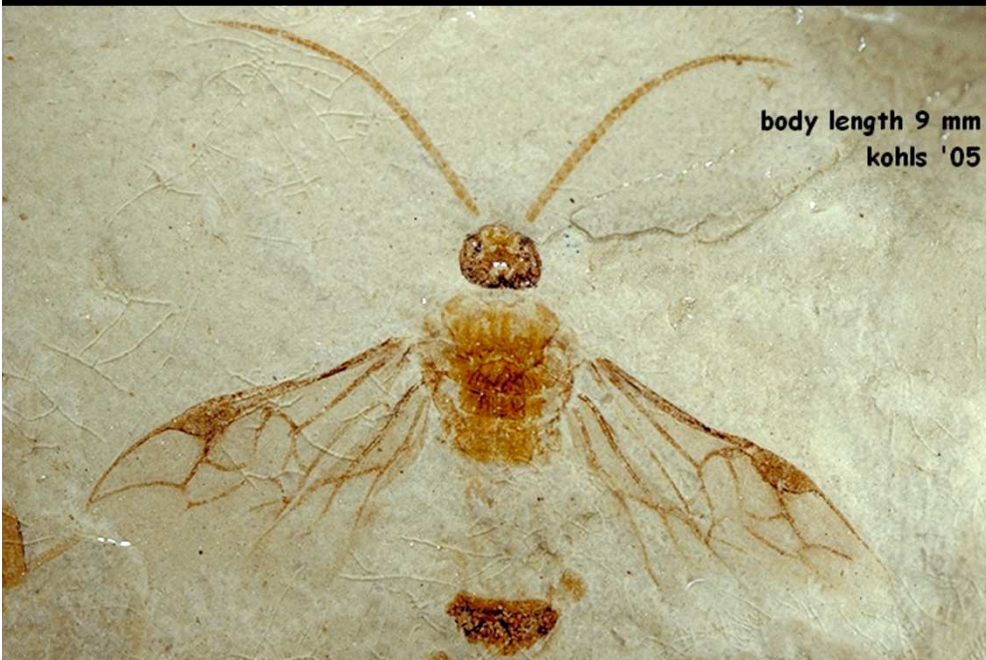
Colorado fossil deposits



MAT (°C)

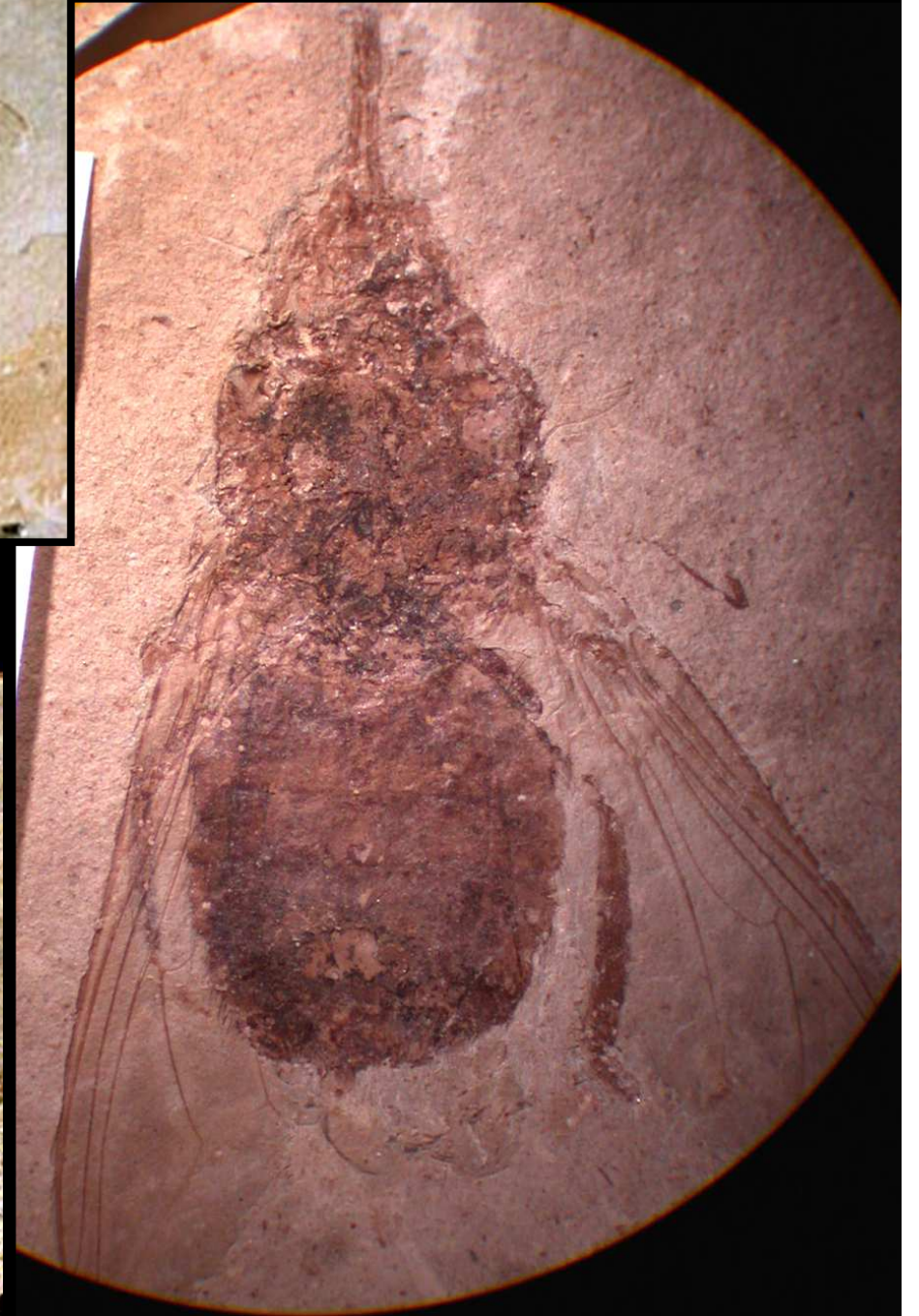
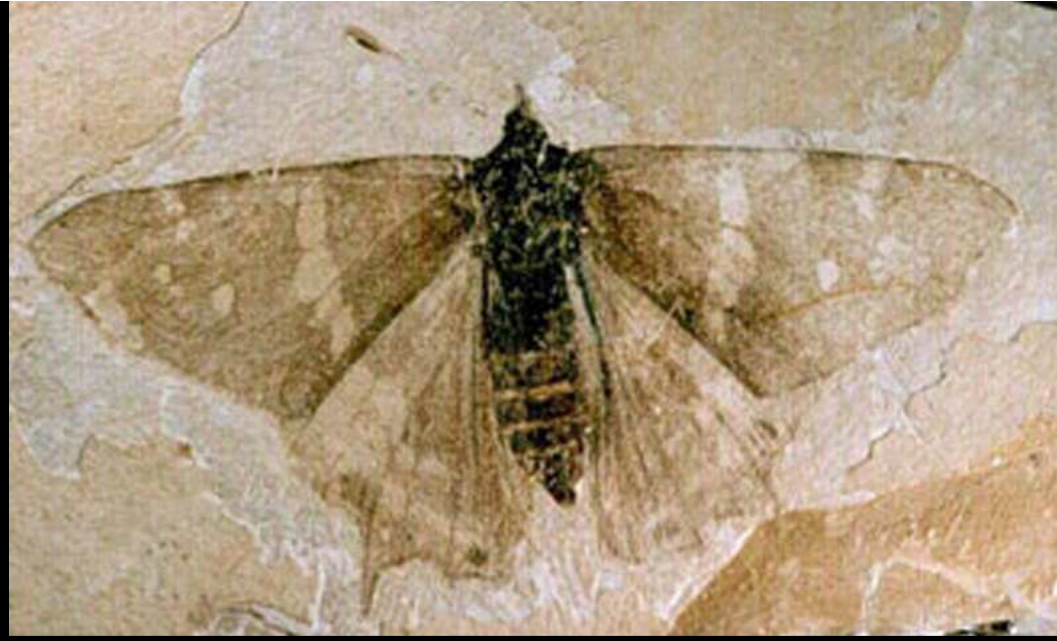
Creede	2.5
Pitch Pinnacle	12
Florissant	12.7
Green River	18

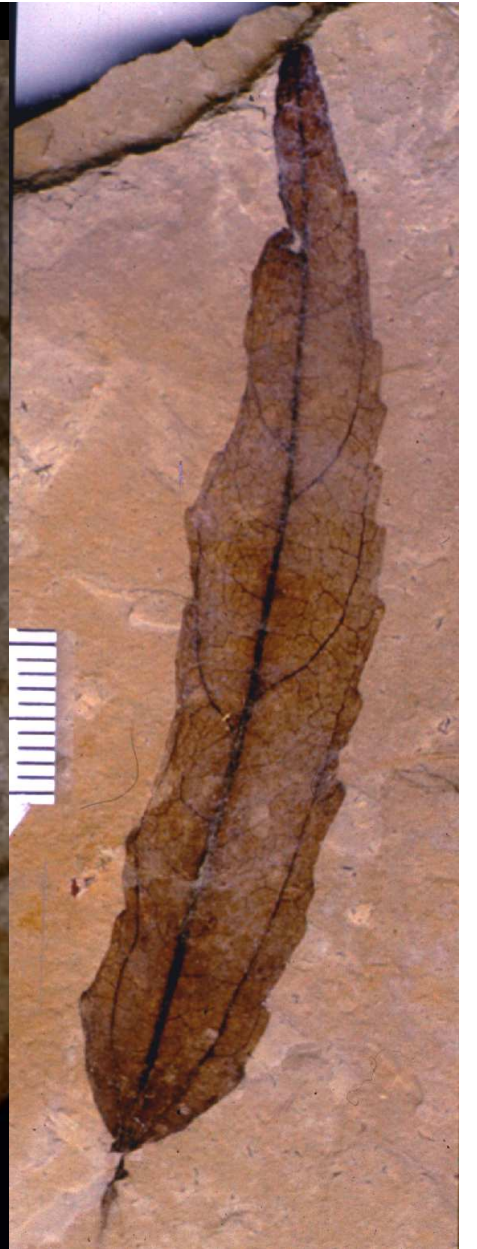




Florissant

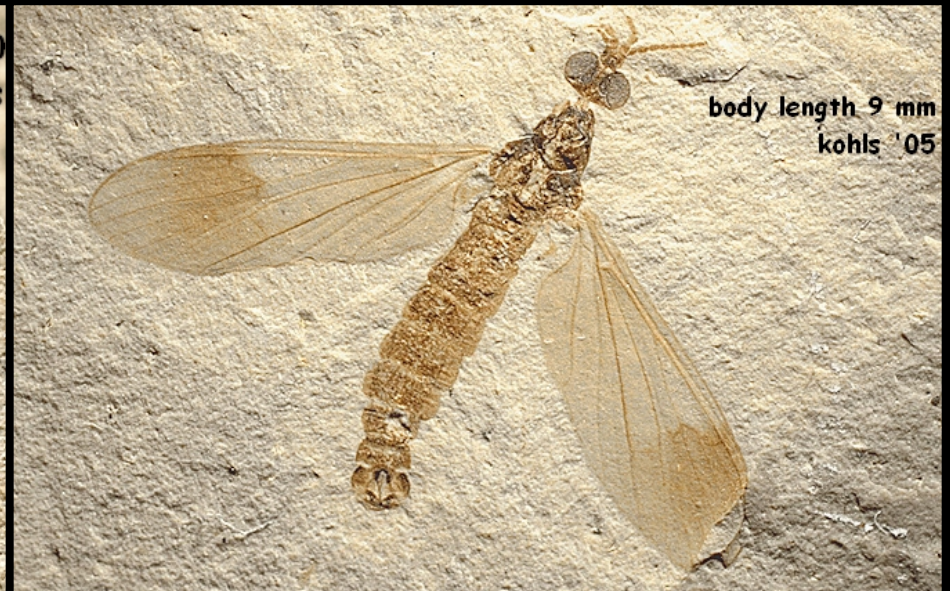
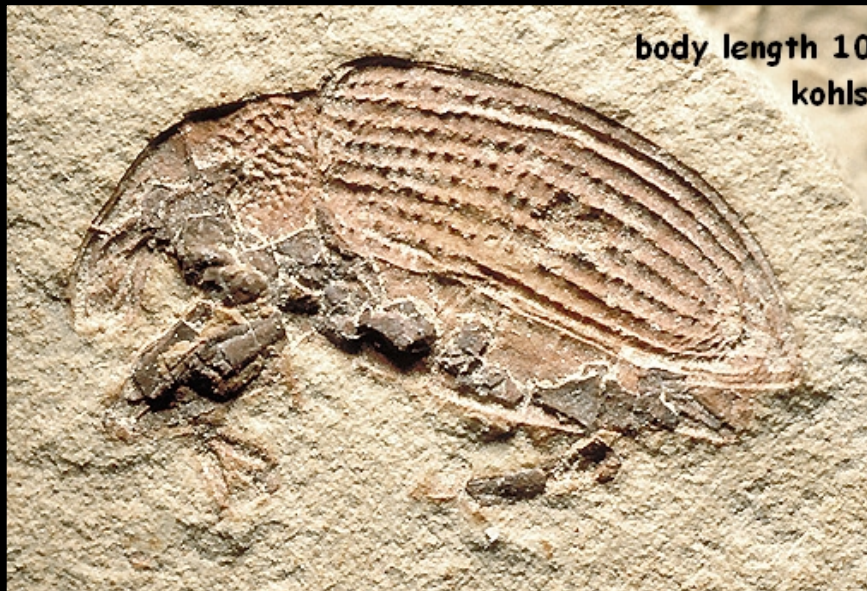




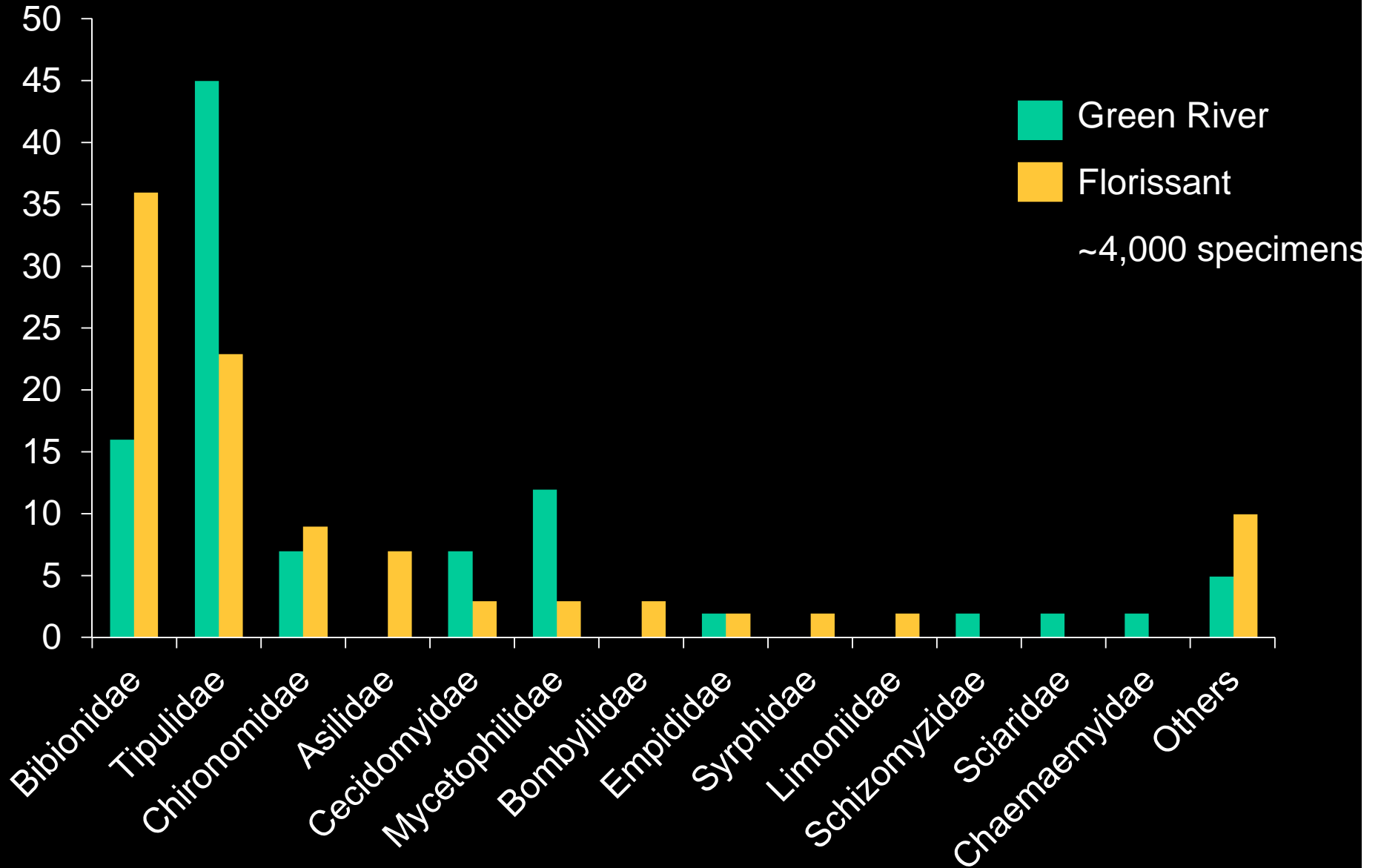


Key taxa

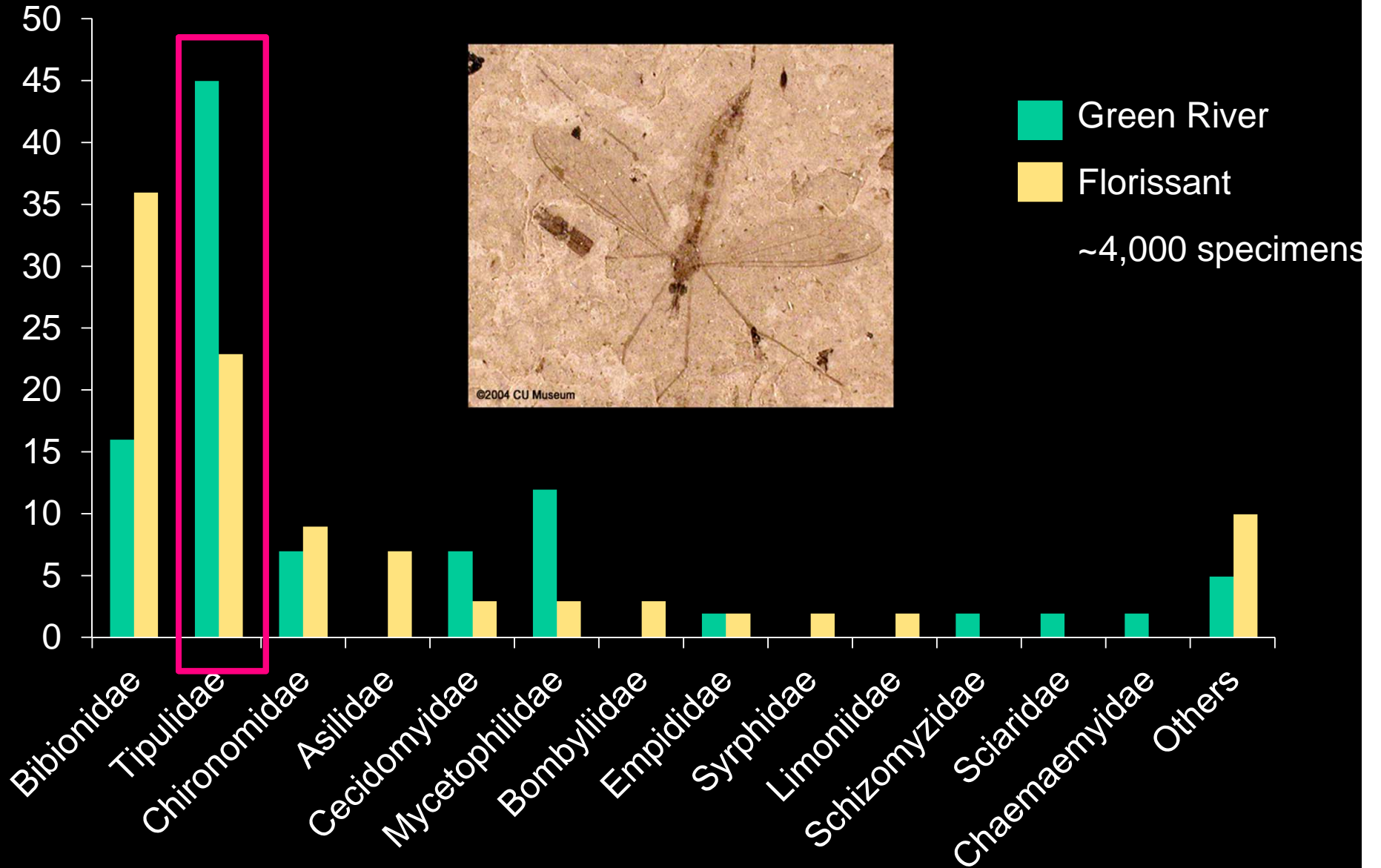
Green River Formation 16 orders
Florissant Formation 18 orders



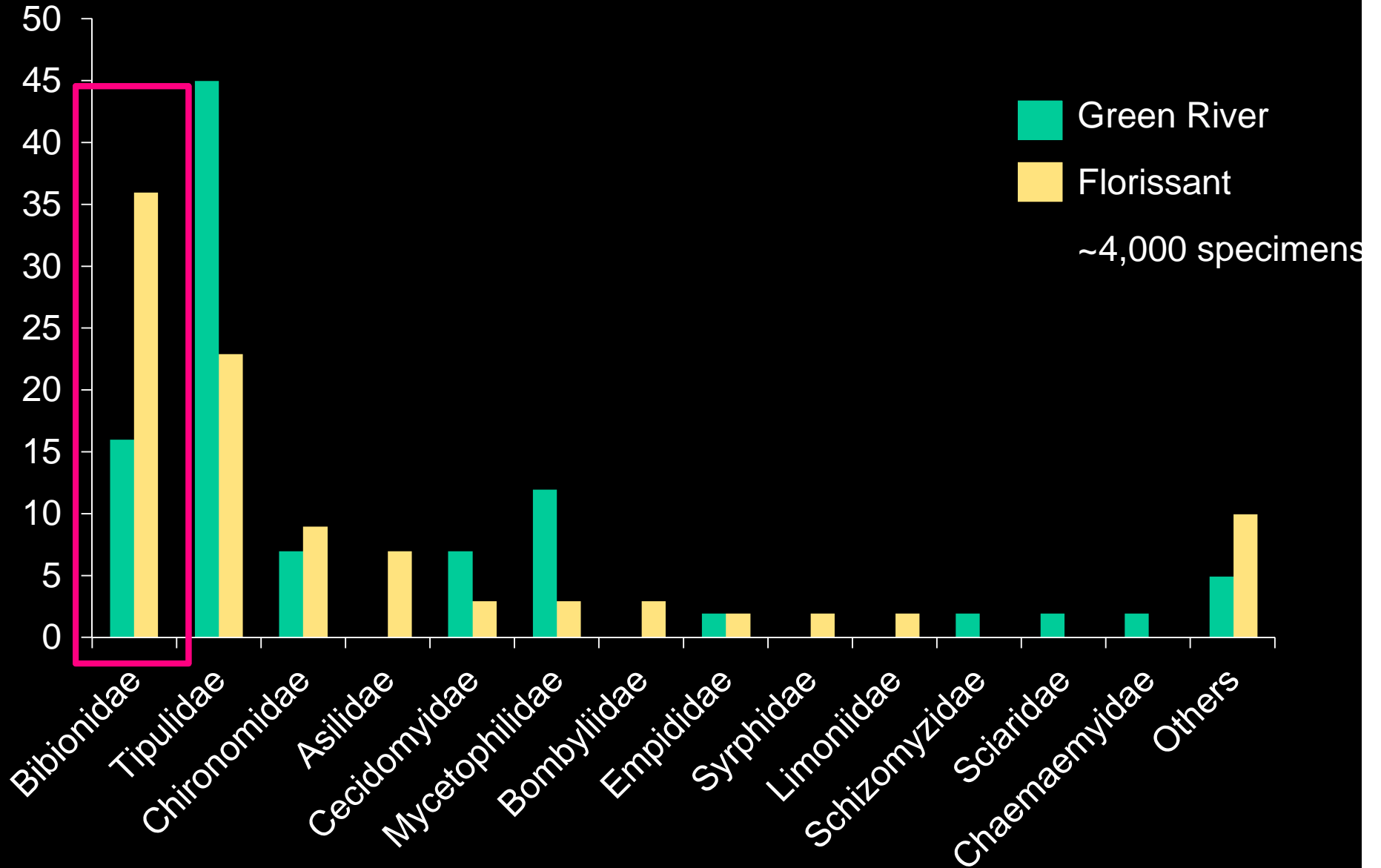
DIPTERA –



DIPTERA –



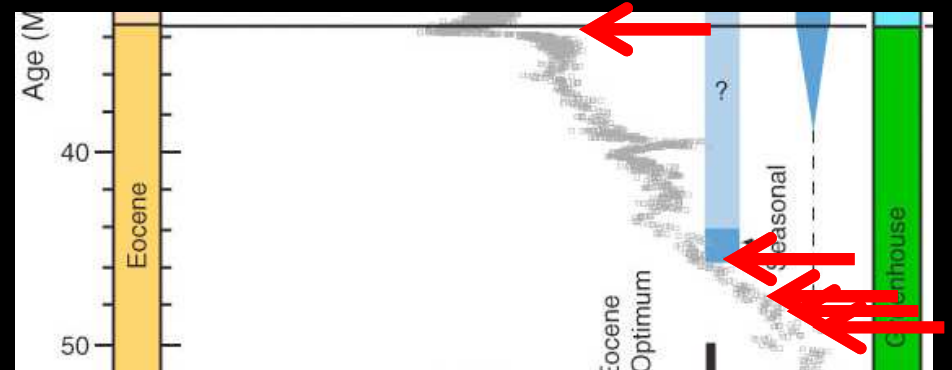
DIPTERA –



Bibionidae

Plecia – warm loving

Bibio – cool loving

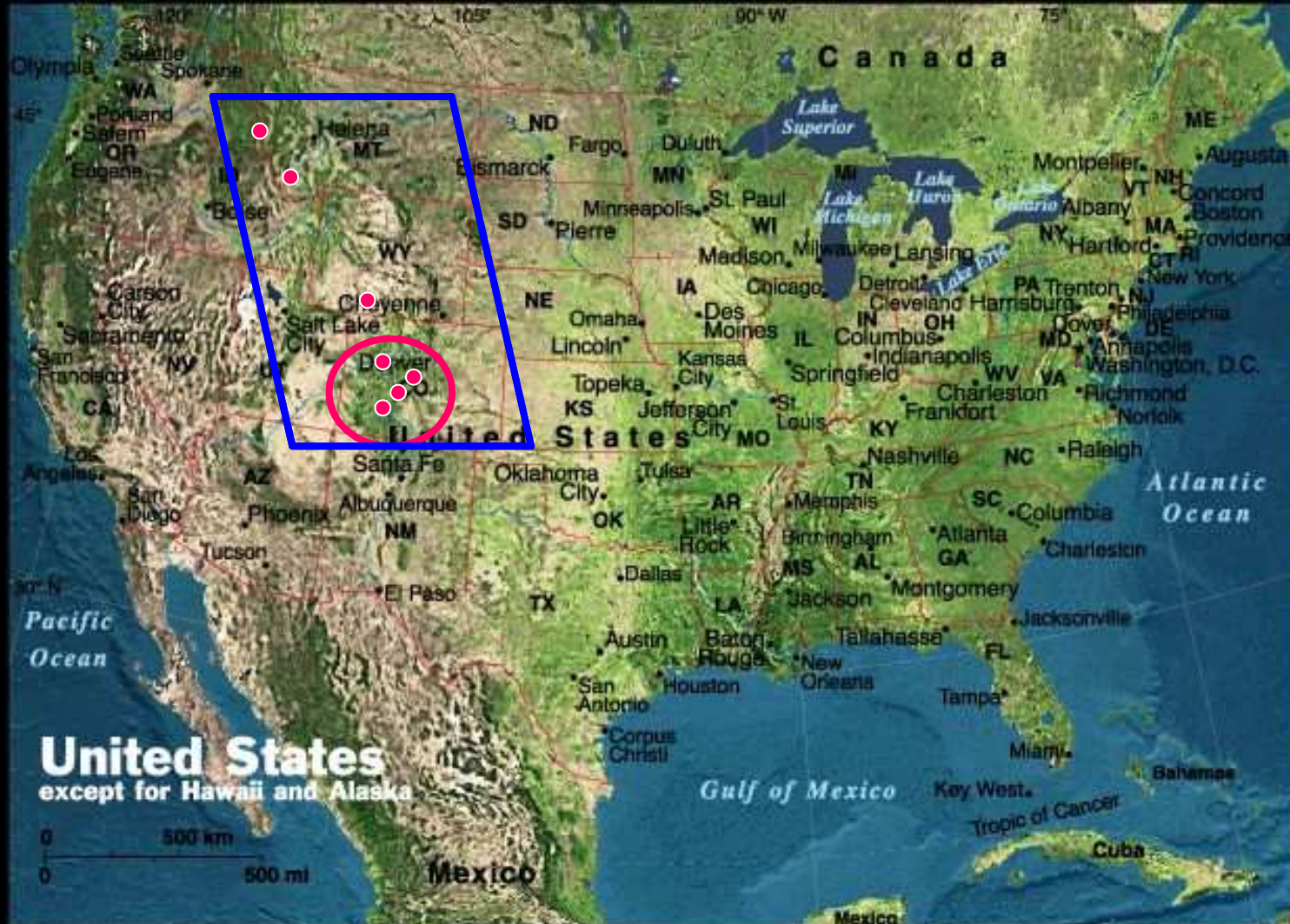


Next steps

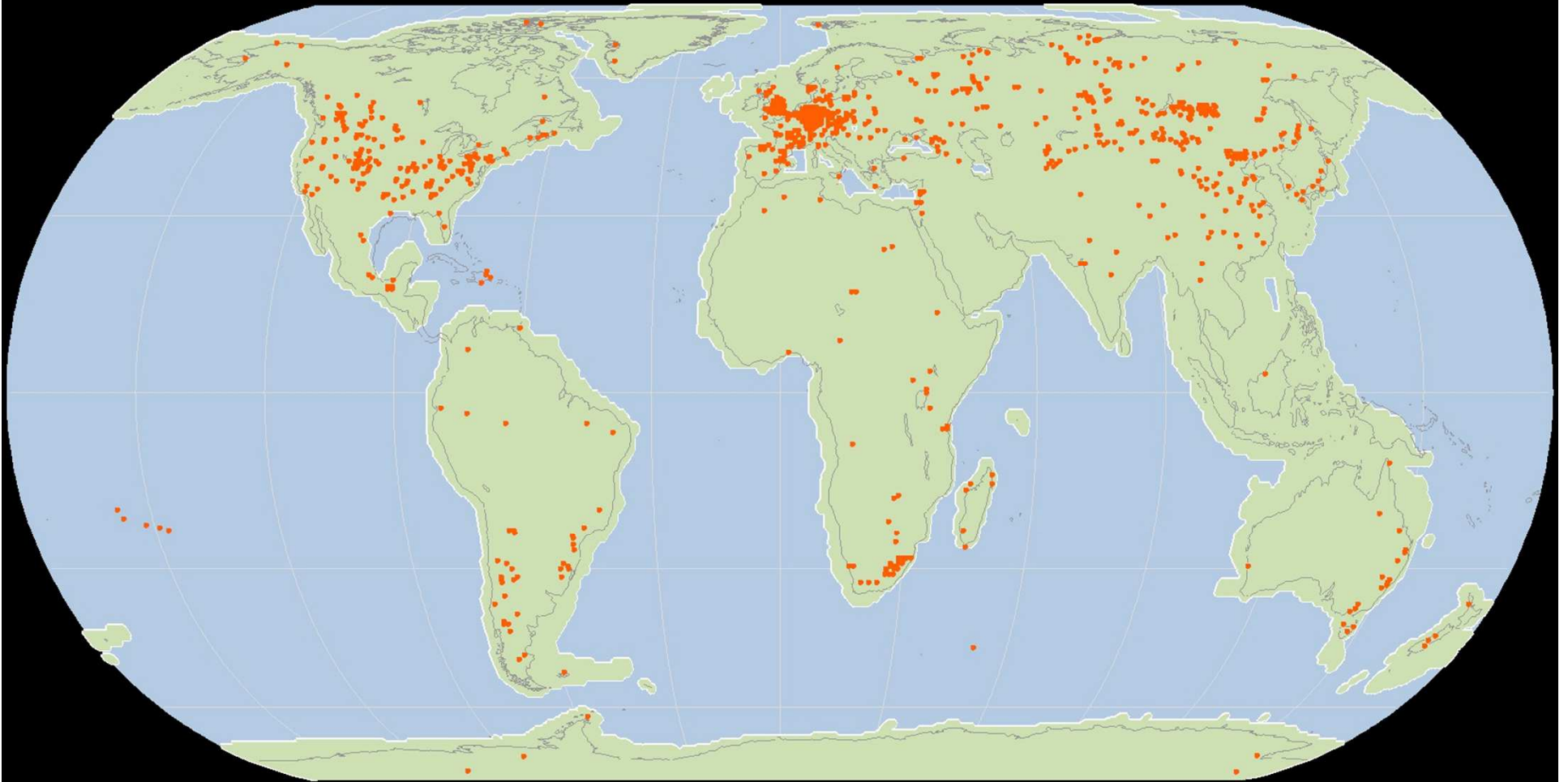
- Analyze how taxonomic composition, richness and abundance distributions have changed during this dramatic cooling event.
- Determine feeding preferences to understand how life history characteristics determine which groups had the strongest response to environmental change.



Next steps



Next steps

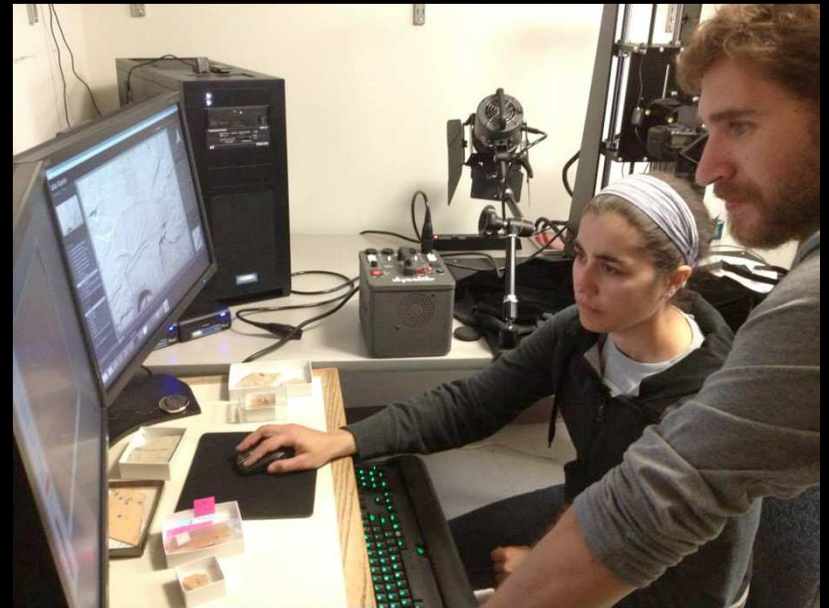




*A deep-time approach to studying
diversification and response to
environmental change*

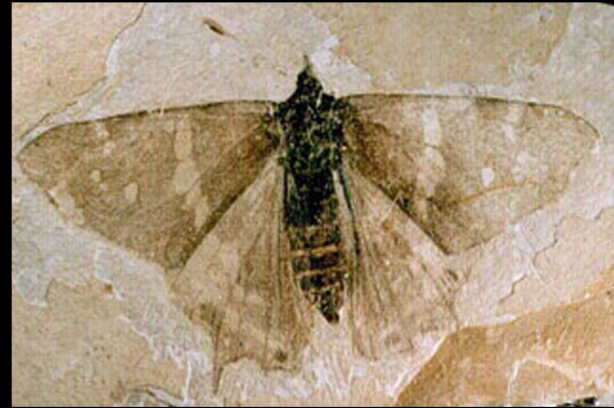
fossilinsects.colorado.edu





fossilinsects.colorado.edu

- 7 institutions & 2 partners
- 500,000 fossil insect specimens (images and associated metadata)
- **iDigPaleo collections database**, mobile apps, education modules, internships for graduate and undergraduate students
- Funded through **NSF – Advancing the Digitization of Biological Collections**



Partners - PIs

American Museum of Natural History – David Grimaldi

CU Museum of Natural History – Dena Smith & Talia Karim

Illinois Natural History Survey - Sam Heads

Museum of Comparative Zoology – Harvard – Brian Farrell

University of Kansas Biodiversity Institute – Michael Engel

Virginia Museum of Natural History – Alton Dooley

Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History - Susan Butts and
Chris Norris



Collaborating Institutions

Florissant Fossil Beds N.M. – Herbert Meyer

National Museum of Natural History - Smithsonian
–Kathy Hollis, Finnegan Marsh, Conrad Labandeira

iDigPaleo - Hub

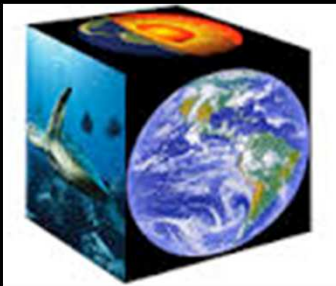
iDigPaleo will be used to aggregate specimen data and low resolution images from collaborators and then to serve these data to the National Hub at iDigBio (www.idigbio.org) and the Paleontology Portal (www.paleoportal.org).

Paleontology
TCN Projects



iDig Paleo - Hub

Central resource to interact with bio and geo cyberinfrastructure initiatives.



Geobiodiversity Database

Promoting collaborations based on global and regional database



Broader Impacts

- Development of mobile apps and modules (NGSS)
- Testing of activities in EVOLUTIONs after school program at Yale-Peabody
- SHRMP (Science High School Research Mentoring Program) at AMNH





A deep-time approach to studying diversification and response to environmental change

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