Arthropods of the great indoors: Characterizing diversity inside urban and suburban homes

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Although humans and arthropods have been living and evolving together for all of our history, we know very little about the arthropods we share our homes with apart from major pest groups. Here we surveyed, for the first time, the complete arthropod fauna of the indoor biome in 50 houses (located in and around Raleigh, North Carolina, USA). We discovered high diversity, with a conservative estimate range of 32 to 211 morphospecies, and 24 to 128 distinct arthropod families per house. The majority of this indoor diversity (73%) was made up of true flies (Diptera), spiders (Araneae), beetles (Coleoptera), and wasps and kin (Hymenoptera, especially ants: Formicidae). Much of the arthropod diversity within houses did not consist of synanthropic species, but instead included arthropods that were filtered from the surrounding landscape. As such, common pest species were found less frequently than benign species. Some of the most frequently found arthropods in houses, such as gall midges (Cecidomyiidae) and book lice (Liposcelididae), are unfamiliar to the general public despite their ubiquity. These findings present a new understanding of the diversity, prevalence, and distribution of the arthropods in our daily lives. Considering their impact as household pests, disease vectors, generators of allergens, and facilitators of the indoor microbiome, advancing our knowledge of the ecology and evolution of arthropods in homes has major economic and human health implications.

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2   **homes**

3

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12

13 **ABSTRACT**

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15   history, we know very little about the arthropods we share our homes with apart from major pest

16   groups. Here we surveyed, for the first time, the complete arthropod fauna of the indoor biome in

17   50 houses (located in and around Raleigh, North Carolina, USA). We discovered high diversity,

18   with a conservative estimate range of 32 to 211 morphospecies, and 24 to 128 distinct arthropod

19   families per house. The majority of this indoor diversity (73%) was made up of true flies

20   (Diptera), spiders (Araneae), beetles (Coleoptera), and wasps and kin (Hymenoptera, especially

21   ants: Formicidae). Much of the arthropod diversity within houses did not consist of synanthropic

22   species, but instead included arthropods that were filtered from the surrounding landscape. As

23   such, common pest species were found less frequently than benign species. Some of the most

24   frequently found arthropods in houses, such as gall midges (Cecidomyiidae) and book lice

25   (Liposcelididae), are unfamiliar to the general public despite their ubiquity. These findings

26   present a new understanding of the diversity, prevalence, and distribution of the arthropods in

27   our daily lives. Considering their impact as household pests, disease vectors, generators of

28   allergens, and facilitators of the indoor microbiome, advancing our knowledge of the ecology

29   and evolution of arthropods in homes has major economic and human health implications.

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INTRODUCTION

For as long as humans have lived in fixed habitations there have been other organisms that dwell alongside us. We share our living spaces with a variety of invited and uninvited guests spanning the tree of life, from large vertebrates (e.g., pets and livestock) to microorganisms (Martin et al., 2015). The most diverse and abundant group of multicellular life found in homes, as well as on Earth more generally, is represented by arthropods.

Insects, spiders and their relatives have been living and evolving with humans for all of our history. It has been proposed that many arthropod species that are now associated with human houses were originally cave dwellers (e.g., bed bugs: Cimicidae) (Balvín et al., 2012). Evidence of arthropod vectors in caves inhabited by prehistoric people ca. 26,000 years ago suggests that pestiferous arthropods, such as blood-feeding kissing bugs (Reduviidae: Triatominae), lived alongside our ancestors (Araújo et al., 2009). Among the first examples of cave art is a depiction of a camel cricket (Rhaphidophoridae) (Chopard, 1928; Belles, 1997).

As human society changed over time, arthropods successfully -- and rapidly -- made use of our bodies and resources for food and shelter. Constructed houses, animal domestication, agriculture and the ability to store food (such as grains) brought different arthropod species into the domiciles and daily lives of humans. Arthropods are common fauna in domestic archaeological sites from Egypt (dating as far back at 1353 B.C.E), Israel, and Europe (Switzerland, Greenland, and the UK) (Nielsen et al., 2000; Panagiotakopulu, 2001; Panagiotakopulu, 2003; Kislev, Hartmann & Galili, 2004; Panagiotakopulu, 2004; Kenward & Carrott, 2006), with some species characteristic of stored food products and livestock, and others representative of local fauna.

54   In contrast to the simple dwellings early humans used, modern western houses are

55   perceived of as being an environment largely devoid of animal life. However, arthropods thrive

56   in homes, as evidenced by today's multi-billion dollar pest control industry. Houses today host

57   many of the same pest groups found in archeological sites (see Results), yet today's arthropod

58   communities also reflect aspects of society's modernization. For example, with the advent of

59   indoor plumbing, dung beetles (Scarabaeidae) are less prevalent indoors (as shown in this study),

60   but drain-dwelling moth flies (Psychodidae) are likely more so. Also, as human society became

61   more globalized through travel and trade, arthropod species that are closely associated with

62   humans and their homes, such as the house fly (*Musca domestica* L.; Legner & McCoy, 1966),

63   German cockroach (*Blattella germanica* L.), and fruit fly (or vinegar fly, *Drosophila*

64   *melanogaster* Meigen; Keller, 2007) obtained worldwide distributions and, in some cases, even

65   lack wild populations (e.g. the German cockroach; Roth, 1985; Booth et al., 2010). The influence

66   of human society and our changing domiciles on the evolution of specific arthropod lineages is

67   evident.

68   Research on indoor arthropod communities has focused almost exclusively on pests, with

69   a particular emphasis on those of medical and economic importance such as cockroaches,

70   termites, bed bugs, fleas, and mosquitoes (Committee on Urban Pest Management et al., 1980;

71   Robinson, 2005). Unlike the species that threaten or bother us, very little is known about the

72   myriad other arthropod species, many of them inconspicuous (and even unnoticed), that live with

73   humans. The true interactions between these other species and humans -- be it beneficial, neutral,

74   or negative -- remain largely unknown, as does their prevalence and distribution. In fact, a

75   comprehensive survey of arthropod life in contemporary human houses has never before been

76   carried out.

77   A systematic sampling of the complete arthropod fauna in the interior of homes and an

78   understanding of the role that interior microhabitats play in determining the assemblage of

79   arthropod communities are the first steps toward revealing ecological dynamics in a vastly

80   understudied system (Baz & Monserrat, 1999; Dunn et al., 2013). What are the most prevalent

81   arthropod groups found in houses and how common are they among homes and rooms? Here we

82   explored the composition of overall arthropod diversity, including both pest and non-pest

83   species, in human dwellings. Through surveying 50 free-standing houses located in the North

84   Carolina Piedmont region, we identified and characterized the overall diversity of arthropods

85   found within these homes.

86

87   **MATERIALS & METHODS**

88   We solicited volunteers owning or renting free-standing homes in Raleigh and

89   neighboring areas of North Carolina, USA. The study area is located in the Piedmont of the state

90   and characterized by red clay soils and deciduous/pine forests (with meadows and aquatic/semi-

91   aquatic systems interspersed) among various urban and suburban development (Fig. 1). We

92   randomly selected 50 homes/volunteers to visit from among participants who filled out an online

93   questionnaire about the characteristics of their household and behavior of its residents. All homes

94   included in the study were within a 30 mile radius of Raleigh's center (35.7719° N, 78.6389°

95   W). Each home was visited once between May and October 2012. Upon arrival, volunteers were

96   informed of the procedures and process for sampling arthropods and asked to sign a consent

97   form (Supplement 1).

98

99   *General Arthropod Sampling:*

100   We (trained entomologists) performed a visual inspection of each room and collected

101   specimens by hand using forceps, aspirators and entomological nets. Only visible surfaces,

102   including those accessible under and behind furniture, around baseboards, ceilings, and on

103   shelves and other surfaces were sampled. We collected all arthropods or putative arthropods,

104   including those from spider webs; both living and dead arthropods were collected in this manner

105   into vials containing 95% ethanol. We did not collect all specimens of a given arthropod species.

106   We designated each distinct room or area and labeled its vial with the room name (as best

107   identified), floor type, and number of windows and doors to the outside of the house; doors

108   between rooms were not quantified. We identified floor types as wood (including laminates,

109   hardwoods, and other wood-like surfaces), linoleum (tiles or otherwise), tile (stone, concrete, or

110   otherwise; not including linoleum) or carpet. The presence of small or large rugs on other

111   surfaces was noted as well. Typical room categories included kitchens, bedrooms (sometimes

112   specified as offices/dens because of their lack of running water, but not receiving the same

113   amount of traffic as common areas), bathrooms, laundry/utility rooms (denoted when a washer

114   and dryer were present), and common areas. Common areas consisted of large open areas that

115   were not easily categorized, usually including dining rooms, living rooms, front rooms, hallways,

116   etc. Closets were sampled and included with the room in which they opened. When a room was

117   present on a floor other than the first/main floor, house level was recorded (e.g., "2nd Floor

118   Bathroom"). All rooms inside the house were sampled in the manner described above except for

119   attics and crawl spaces, which were sampled less thoroughly: only the entrance of each was

120   sampled within a 2 m radius. The limited sampling method for these areas was deemed necessary

121   for the safety of those collecting the specimens (i.e. to avoid high summer temperatures in attics

122   and confined areas in crawl spaces). Screened porches, decks, garages, detached sheds/structures,

123   and closets accessible only from the outside were not sampled.

124

125   *Dust Mites:*

126   We sampled dust mites from the middle of the master bedroom floor, regardless of floor

127   type, in a 0.5 m^2 area. To collect mites, we used a vacuum that was adapted to use specimen cups

128   modified with a screen bottom composed of mesh with 0.0055 inch (0.1397 mm) openings, small

129   enough to allow air to pass through but not mites. We stored all samples in 95% ethanol until

130   they were sorted and quantified. Because of time and specimen handling constraints, only five

131   individuals from five randomly-selected samples were identified.

132

133   *Identification and Classification:*

134   We identified all specimens to family level except when specimens were badly damaged

135   or required additional methods for identification (e.g., slide mounting of mites and other taxa).

136   We further determined genera and species when possible, but many specimens could not be

137   identified to such a level for several reasons including, but not limited to, being damaged, being

138   an unidentifiable sex (e.g., female Sciaridae) or an unidentifiable life stage (e.g., larvae), or being

139   a group that is understudied or lacking good diagnostic keys. As such, our approach produced a

140   very conservative list of morphotaxa for each room in the house and hereafter we call these

141   morphospecies; this type of characterization has been found to be effective in comparing species

142   richness and turnover between sites (Oliver and Beattie, 2002). The taxonomic identity of

143   morphospecies was not compared between rooms within homes due to limitations on time, space

144   (storage of voucher specimens) and diagnostic expertise, thus the true number of morphospecies

145   per house and among all houses was not definitively determined. Thus, a conservative (or

146   assumed minimum) estimate of morphospecies richness per house was created by taking the

147   maximum number of morphospecies from the room containing the highest number of

148   morphospecies, for each family, and summing the total. This is in contrast to a maximum

149   estimate of morphospecies richness which was the total sum of all morphospecies from all rooms

150   within a house; this maximum corresponds to the case in which no two rooms held the same

151   morphospecies. We assume the true diversity falls between our minimum and maximum

152   estimates. All voucher specimens are housed in vials of ethanol in the laboratory of RRD

153   (Department of Biological Sciences, NCSU) for use in further ecological, genetic, and

154   microbiological studies. Specimens will be deposited in the insect museum at NCSU

155   (Department of Entomology) when permanently housed.

156

157   *Analyses:*

158   We classified rooms into 6 categories based on their similarities of features and use:

159   attics, basements (including finished and unfinished basements, and crawl spaces), bathrooms

160   (including bathrooms and laundry rooms), bedrooms (including bedrooms, offices, and libraries),

161   common rooms (including living rooms, dining rooms, and attached hallways), and kitchens

162   (including kitchens and pantries); rooms not conforming to one of the categories were classified

163   as "other" and were excluded from Table 1. We calculated an accumulation curve based on the

164   complete list of families acquired over each sampled house using the Chao2 Estimator with 1000

165   randomization runs in EstimateS (Colwell, 2013). We compared total dust mite abundance in

166   each sample with the floor type on which it was collected. Some samples were collected on

167   carpet, while others were on bare surfaces. Because the data were not normally distributed, we

168   analyzed the differences between samples with different floor types using a Kruskal-Wallis test.

169   All analyses were done in R 3.1.2 (R Development Core Team, 2014).

170

171   **RESULTS**

172   *Overall Metrics*

173   Houses in the study ranged from 840 to 4,833 square feet in (mean = 2,072; median =

174   1,720) and were from seven to 94 years old (mean = 41.35; median = 30.5). During the course of

175   sampling 554 rooms in the 50 homes, over 10,000 specimens were collected and identified.

176   These specimens represented all four subphyla (Chelicerata, Myriapoda, "Crustacea", and

177   Hexapoda), as well as 6 classes, 34 orders and 304 families of arthropods (Table 1; Supplemental

178   Table 1). While we cannot determine the exact number of morphospecies that were collected,

179   there were at least 579 morphospecies based on our most conservative estimates (calculated by

180   summing the maximum number of morphospecies for each family ever found in a single room).

181   We collected 24 to 128 families from each house, resulting in an average of 61.84 (s.d. =

182   23.24) distinct arthropod families per house and a total gamma diversity (across houses) of 304

183   families (Fig. 2). One hundred and forty-nine (149) families were rare, collected from fewer than

184   10% of homes, 66 of which were found in just a single home. The number of families collected

185   in a home was correlated with house size ($r^2 = 0.3$, p = < 0.001). Conservative species estimates

186   by home ranged from 32 to 211, with an average of 93.14 (s.d. = 42.34) morphospecies per

187   house (Fig. 3). Considering that our conservative species estimate assumes that rooms with the

188   greatest number of morphospecies by family included all species from other rooms (which is

189   almost certainly untrue), this number is likely much lower than the true number of species per

190   house (Fig. 3).

191

192   *Taxon specific observations*

193   While overall diversity was high, 12 frequently found families were identified in at least

194   80% of homes (Fig. 4). Only four families were identified from 100% of houses sampled:

195   cobweb spiders (Theridiidae), carpet beetles (Dermestidae), gall midge flies (Cecidomyiidae)

196   and ants (Formicidae). Book lice (Liposcelididae) and dark-winged fungus gnats (Sciaridae)

197   were found in 98% and 96% of homes, respectively. Nearly half of all families (five of 12) found

198   in over 80% of homes were true flies (Diptera): fungus gnats (Sciaridae); mosquitoes

199   (Culicidae); scuttle flies (Phoridae); non-biting midges (Chironomidae); and gall midges

200   (Cecidomyiidae).

201   Typical household pests were found in a minority of the homes, such as German

202   cockroaches (*Blattella germanica*: 6% of houses), subterranean termites (Rhinotermitidae: 28%

203   of houses), and fleas (Pulicidae: 10% of houses); bed bugs (*Cimex lectularius* Linnaeus) were

204   not found during the study. Larger cockroaches (Blattidae), such as smoky brown (*Periplaneta*

205   *fuliginosa* (Serville)) and American cockroaches (*Periplaneta americana* (Linnaeus)) were found

206   in the majority of houses (74%). However, the American cockroach (which is the only of the two

207   considered a true pest) was only recovered from three homes; smoky brown cockroaches made

208   up the vast majority of large cockroaches collected. All pest species were less common than

209   other more inconspicuous arthropods such as pillbugs (Armadillidiidae, 78%) and springtails

210   (Entomobryidae, 78%).

211   In addition to those listed above, many of the same pests we recovered were also found in

212   archaeological sites (Nielsen et al., 2000; Panagiotakopulu, 2001; Panagiotakopulu, 2003;

213   Kislev, Hartmann & Galili, 2004; Panagiotakopulu, 2004; Kenward & Carrott, 2006). These

214   included grain weevils (Curculionidae: *Sitophilus* Schoenherr), carpet beetles (Dermestidae:

215   *Anthrenus*), grain beetles (Silvanidae: *Oryzaephilus* Ganglbauer), cigarette and drugstore beetles

216   (Anobiidae: *Lasioderma* Stephens & *Stegobium* Motschulsky, respectively), house flies

217   (Muscidae: *Musca domestica*) and lesser house flies (Fanniidae: *Fannia* Robineau-Desvoidy).

218

219   *Arthropod Distribution within the Home*

220   Arthropods were found on every level of the home and in all room types. Only 5 rooms

221   (non-attics) had no arthropod specimens collected (four bathrooms, one bedroom). Six arthropod

222   orders dominated houses, comprising 81% of the diversity in an average room: Diptera (true

223   flies, 23%), Coleoptera (beetles, 19%), Araneae (spiders, 16%), Hymenoptera (predominantly

224   ants, 15%), Psocodea (book lice, 4%), and Hemiptera (true bugs, 4%) (Fig. 5). Eight additional

225   orders made up another 15% of the diversity (Blattodea, Collembola, Lepidoptera, Isopoda,

226   Zygentoma, Polydesmida, Orthoptera, and Acari), while all remaining orders comprised a total

227   of 4% of the overall diversity (Fig. 5). The percentage of rooms in which an arthropod was

228   collected varied among taxa, as did their presence in rooms of different types (Table 1).

229

230   *Dust Mite Sampling*

231   Dust mite samples contained from 0 to 421 total specimens, with an average of 38.12

232   (s.d. = 71.5); dust mites were found in 76% of the homes sampled (Table 1). Significantly more

233   mites were collected from carpeted surfaces than hard surfaces (e.g., wood floors) (Kruskal-

234   Wallis test: $\chi^2 = 10.692$, $p = 0.001$). Of those identified from the subset, all were

235   *Dermatophagoides* sp. (Pyroglyphidae).

236

DISCUSSION

237

238   As household pests and disease vectors, the indoor arthropods in our daily lives have had

239   a substantial impact on human society both historically and today. Although extensive research

240   has been done on a small number of arthropod pest species, the data presented herein represent

241   the first comprehensive survey of the arthropod diversity collected from urban and suburban

242   houses. In the absence of similar studies that could provide baseline data for comparison, our

243   results are surprising both in terms of the prevalence of arthropods (virtually every room was

244   occupied) and in terms of their diversity.

245   The diversity of arthropods found indoors extends far beyond commonly recognized

246   species. We found that an individual house may have hundreds of arthropod species within it,

247   with each house on average containing 62 families and a minimum estimate of 93

248   morphospecies. The true diversity among these 50 homes is undoubtedly much higher due to

249   limitations of the minimum estimate (it assumes no species turnover between rooms), the

250   presence of cryptic species and our sampling method that excluded areas behind walls, under

251   heavy furniture, and in drawers and cabinets, all of which undoubtedly serve as potential refuges

252   for additional arthropods. While sampling 50 homes did lead to a decrease in the rate of family

253   accumulation, clearly there are still many other families and morphospecies that are yet to be

254   recovered and characterized from homes (Fig. 2).

255   We found that four groups of arthropods dominate the average room: flies (23%), beetles

256   (19%), spiders (16%) and hymenoptera (predominantly ants, 15%) (Fig. 5). Overall, there are

257   more types of flies associated with human homes than any other group of animals. Some flies

258   have evolved close associations with humans, while others (Chironomidae and Cecidomyiidae)

259   may arrive in houses as part of 'air plankton'; their presence indoors is more a reflection of their

260   abundance outdoors than of the ecology inside homes. Despite their prevalence, flies represent

261   only a small proportion of taxon-focused studies in the urban landscape (McIntyre, 2000).

262   Recent studies have revealed new information on flies in urban landscapes, including 30 new

263   scuttle fly species identified from urban Los Angeles (California, USA), indicating that the true

264   diversity of these flies, and likely many other small fly groups, in human-developed areas is

265   underestimated (Grimaldi et al., 2015; Hartop et al., 2015).

266   Book lice (Psocodea: Liposcelididae), were found to be amongst the most ubiquitous

267   indoor arthropods (found in 49 of 50 houses). Book lice are close relatives of parasitic lice and

268   have a long evolutionary history of living, amongst other places, in close association with birds,

269   mammals and their nests (including those of primates; Grimaldi & Engel, 2005). As stored grain

270   pests, fungus feeders, and scavengers, book lice thrive in indoor environments. *Liposcelis*

271   *bostrychophila* Badonnel, for example, is a globally-distributed, anthropophilic species whose

272   widespread success and resistance to control measures is in part due to its parthenogenesis,

273   ability to disperse through air, wide diversity of diet, and resistance to starvation (Diaz-Montano

274   et al., 2014). Book lice have become more common in houses in the United Kingdom over time

275   (recovered from 14% of houses sampled in 1987 versus 30% in 1997; Turner & Bishop, 1998)

276   and are more prevalent in areas of high humidity in houses in Spain (such as kitchens and

277   bathrooms; Baz & Monserrat, 1999). However, perhaps due to North Carolina's humid climate

278   or our sampling methods, we found booklice distributed throughout houses.

279   Dust mites were found in the majority of homes (76%). Previous studies have found dust

280   mites in 30 to 100% of sampled homes across the US (Arlian, 1992). Human association with

281   dust mites may have been established with the origins of dense human settlements; dust mites

282   likely shifted from the nests of synanthropic birds or rodents to human houses (Klimov, 2013).

283   To control dust mite populations, it is often recommended to remove carpets because they

284   provide protection, thermoinsulation, higher humidity, and trap the food on which these mites

285   feed (Colloff, 1998). As expected, we found much higher dust mite abundance on carpeted

286   surfaces, consistent with previous research. Yet, paradoxically, the house that had the single

287   highest abundance of dust mites within our study had a wood floor. Humidity levels and

288   vacuuming frequency, although unknown for this house, may explain the discrepancy.

289   Characteristics of different wood floors, such as age and quality of build, could also affect mite

290   abundance since gaps between boards can provide habitat for mite populations.

291   Because previous studies of indoor arthropods have largely focused on pest groups of

292   economic and human health importance (e.g. Runstrom & Bennett, 1990; Colloff, 1998; How &

293   Lee, 2010; Crissman et al., 2010), we expected common pests to be among the most frequently

294   found groups of arthropods in the homes. In fact, we found a relative dearth of typical household

295   pests. The only exception to this was the prevalence of the smoky brown cockroach, a species

296   that is not truly considered pestiferous because it does not generally develop pest-level

297   populations in homes due to its need for high humidity and moisture (Robinson, 2005). It may be

298   that we collected more specimens of this species due to their intolerance and ultimate death

299   within the homes. While the lack of many pest species could be an artifact of the sampling

300   design (sampling for species occurrence rather than abundance, as well as sampling in free-

301   standing homes rather than other forms of human habitation such as apartments, townhouses,

302   etc.), it appears that the vast majority of arthropods that live amongst us cause no direct harm.

303   Unfortunately many insects and arthropods we collected are considered pests based solely on

304   their presence in the home (i.e. nuisance invaders; Hahn & Ascerno, 1991; Cranshaw, 2011),

305   despite having no direct impact on people or their possessions.

306　　　　　Many arthropods we identified from houses were unexpected -- either in terms of the

307　　frequency with which they were found or because they are rarely found outdoors, much less

308　　indoors. Gall midges (Cecidomyiidae), although found in every house sampled, were not even

309　　mentioned amongst the over 2,000 species listed in a recent compilation of urban insects and

310　　arachnids (Robinson, 2005). Leafhoppers (Cicadellidae), as plant feeders, are not associated with

311　　the indoor biome (Robinson, 2005), yet were among the groups most frequently found in houses.

312　　Moths and butterflies (Lepidoptera), on the other hand, were collected infrequently, making up

313　　only 2% of the average diversity in a room; this is disproportionate to their known overall

314　　diversity (the order comprising over 10% of described insect species; Capinera, 2008). Although

315　　ants (Formicidae) were expected and found in 100% of houses, further identification at the genus

316　　and species level revealed taxa that are not typically thought to occur in homes. Camel crickets

317　　(Rhaphidophoridae) are known basement dwellers in the Southeastern US, but our sampling

318　　confirmed previous reports that an invasive species, *Diestrammena asynamora* (Adelung)

319　　predominates over native species (*Ceuthophilus* spp.) (Epps et al., 2014). Other unexpected finds

320　　were ant-loving crickets (Myrmecophilidae), the smallest orthopterans (Whitman, 2008), which

321　　were found in five kitchens, all with ant infestations; beetles from the relatively rare suborder

322　　Archostemata (families Cupedidae and Micromalthidae); and a larval beaded lacewing

323　　(Berothidae), a rarely seen neuropteran known to live within termite nests where they paralyze

324　　termites with an airborne chemical before feeding on them (Johnson & Hagen, 1981).

325　　　　　Of the arthropods we found that live out a portion of their life cycle in human houses,

326　　there is a broad diversity of trophic levels and life histories represented. Apart from a few

327　　herbivorous arthropods associated with houseplants or those inadvertently living indoors (for

328　　example, brought in on cut plants), most taxa sampled from houses were either scavengers,

329   predators, or parasitoids. Carpet beetles (Dermestidae) were found feeding on dog kibble, dead

330   insects and nail clippings. Other scavengers, like silverfish (found in 68% of homes) and book

331   lice were also common. Carrion-feeding flesh flies (Sarcophagidae) were found during the study

332   emerging from a rodent killed by a house cat. Spiders (including spitting spiders, Scytodidae,

333   that spit venom up to a centimeter to ensnare prey (Foelix, 1996)) and centipedes (especially

334   Scutigeridae) were the primary predators sampled. Minute parasitoid wasps (especially

335   Eulophidae and Platygastridae *s.l.*) that potentially parasitize other household arthropods were

336   also common inhabitants. For instance, one species of Eulophidae, *Aprostocetus* (*Tetrastichodes*)

337   *hagenowii* (Supplemental Table 1), a known parasitoid of blattid cockroach egg cases (oothecae),

338   was commonly collected in homes as were its hosts. Considering the range and abundance of life

339   histories found in our study, the trophic dynamics of the indoor ecosystem is an area in need of

340   future study.

341   The rich arthropod diversity we identified from houses reflects a gradient of association

342   with human habitations, from synanthropic arthropods that appear strongly adapted to human

343   houses (cobweb spiders, carpet beetles, book lice), to others that seek shelter and resources only

344   on occasion (ants, ground beetles, hunting spiders, smoky brown cockroaches), to many groups

345   that simply become trapped in houses to their own detriment (leafhoppers, gall midges, click

346   beetles). Most of the arthropod groups we identified do not have life histories that are known to

347   be closely associated with the indoors. Many arthropods may find themselves indoors as a result

348   of the 'Malaise trap effect': houses, like Malaise and other flight intercept traps, are effective at

349   capturing local arthropods that may be travelling through the environment or are attracted to

350   houses by artificial light, food, and shelter. These arthropods may be active in a house for a short

351   period of time, where interactions between them and the house's residents may occur, but

352   eventually they must either find an exit or succumb to mortality.   The idea that homes are traps

353   or filters of local, outdoor arthropod fauna implies the importance of further investigating the

354   dynamics between the greater landscape and the indoor environment.

355   Biodiversity in urban landscapes is richer than was once thought (McKinney, 2008;

356   Fattorini 2011; Fattorini 2014), and we find here that the indoor, manufactured environment also

357   supports more diversity than anticipated. These findings represent a new understanding of the

358   makeup of the indoor arthropod community and their distribution within houses. Arthropods

359   within our homes are both diverse and prevalent, and are a mix of closely synanthropic species

360   and a great diversity of species that wander indoors by accident. Many species we found were

361   unexpected, unnoticed by residents until they were collected, and play no pestiferous role in

362   human houses. Yet, further research on the ecological dynamics of the indoor biome is needed to

363   understand the potential economic and health implications of the species that live and have

364   evolved in such close proximity to us.

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375 **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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579   **Figure 1. Map of study sites.** Fifty homes (denoted by stars) were selected in and around the

580   Raleigh, North Carolina area. Raleigh is within Wake County, highlighted in red on the state

581   map below, though some samples fell within adjacent counties.

582

583   **Figure 2. Family accumulation curve.** The mean, along with 95% lower and upper confidence

584   intervals, was calculated based on the complete list of families acquired over each sampled house

585   using the Chao2 Estimator with 1000 randomization runs in EstimateS (Colwell, 2013).

586

587   **Figure 3. Number of species by house (in ascending rank order of house size).** The number

588   of species collected by house is represented by the middle bar. The bottom limit is the

589   conservative estimated morphospecies by house which was calculated by summing the

590   maximum number of morphospecies for every arthropod family between all rooms within each

591   house. The upper limit is the maximum possible of morphospecies within a house, with the

592   assumption that each set of morphospecies within each room were unique from other rooms.

593   Houses furthest to the left are the smallest in terms of square footage, and those furthest to the

594   right are the largest. Houses ranged in size from 840-4833 square feet.

595

596   **Figure 4. Photographic representatives of the most frequently collected arthropod families.**

597   Twelve (12) families were represented in at least 80% of homes. For each family we present the

598   common name and percentage of homes it was found in, followed in parentheses by the scientific

599   family name and species level identification when possible. A) cobweb spiders, 100%

600   (Theridiidae; shown here *Parasteatoda tepidariorum* (Koch)); B) carpet beetles, 100%,

601   (Dermestidae; shown here *Anthrenus* larvae); C) gall midges, 100% (Cecidomyiidae); D) ants,

602   100% (Formicidae; shown here *Monomorium minimum* (Buckley)); E) book lice, 98%

603   (Liposcelididae); F) dark-winged fungus gnats, 96% (Sciaridae); G) cellar spiders, 84%

604   (Pholcidae; shown here *Pholcus* sp.); H) weevils, 82% (Curculionidae; shown here *Sitophilus*

605   *zeamais* (Motschulsky)); I) mosquitoes, 82% (Culicidae; shown here *Aedes albopictus* (Skuse));

606   J) scuttle flies, 82% (Phoridae; shown here *Dohrniphora incisuralis* (Loew)); K) leafhoppers,

607   82% (Cicadellidae; shown here *Sibovia* sp.); L) non-biting midges, 80% (Chironomidae). All

608   photos by MAB.

609

610   **Figure 5. Proportional diversity of arthropod orders across all rooms.** Average

611   morphospecies composition calculated across all room types. All photos by MAB.

612

613   **Table 1. List of arthropods found during the study present in at least 10% (n=5) of homes.**

614   Table includes the percentage of homes, rooms overall, and six specific room types (attics,

615   basements, bathrooms, bedrooms, common areas, and kitchens) where a taxon was collected.

616   One hundred twenty-eight additional families were collected, but were found in less than 10%

617   (n=5) of homes. For the full table containing all taxa (including genera and species that were

618   identified) see Supplemental Table 1. All names are based on current taxonomy except for mites,

619   where "Acari" is used as a general order despite modern classifications that consider the group a

620   subclass with numerous orders (Krantz & Walter, 2009). s.l. = *sensu lato*, i.e. "broad sense"

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1

Map of study sites.

2
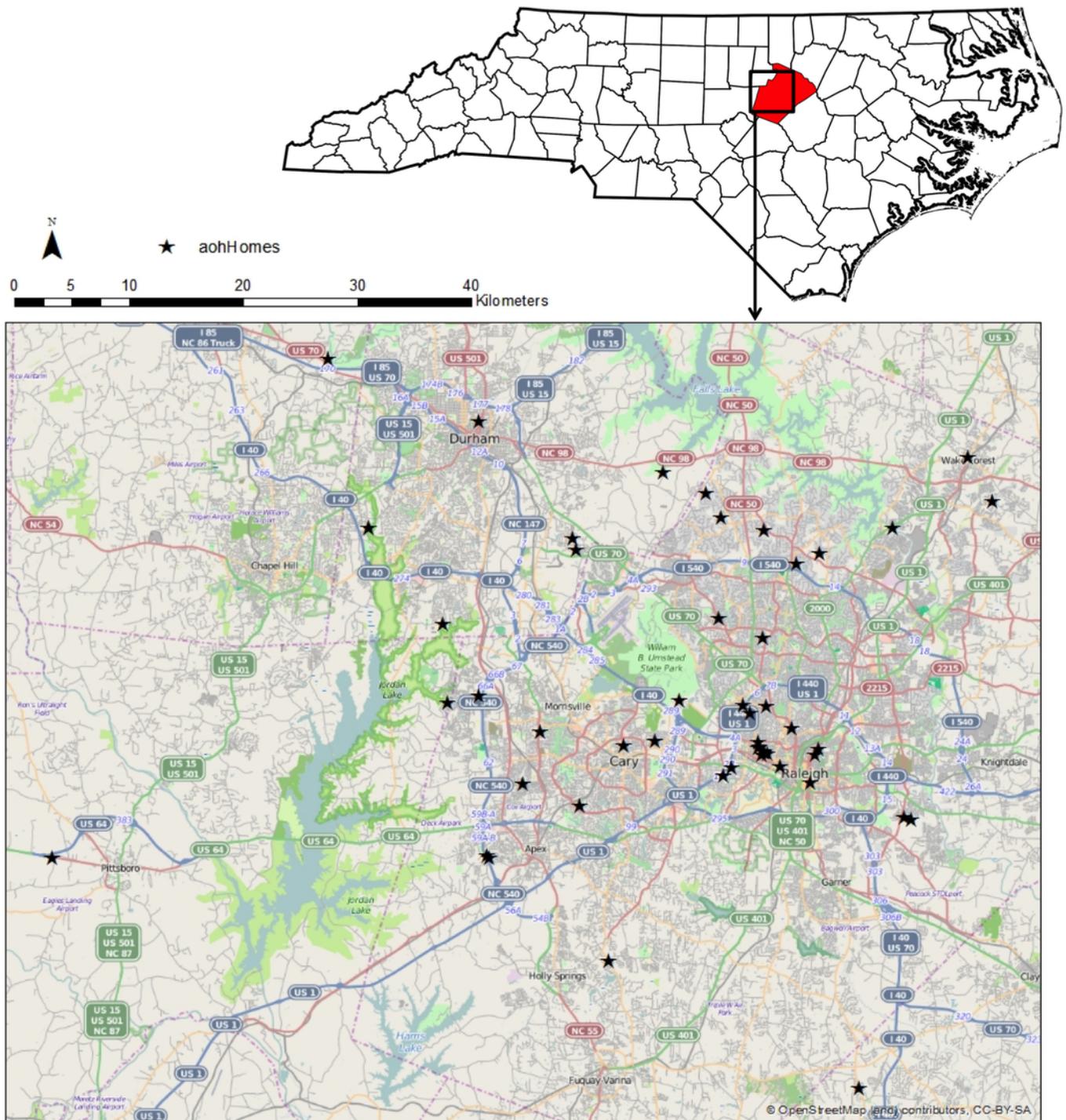
Family accumulation curve.

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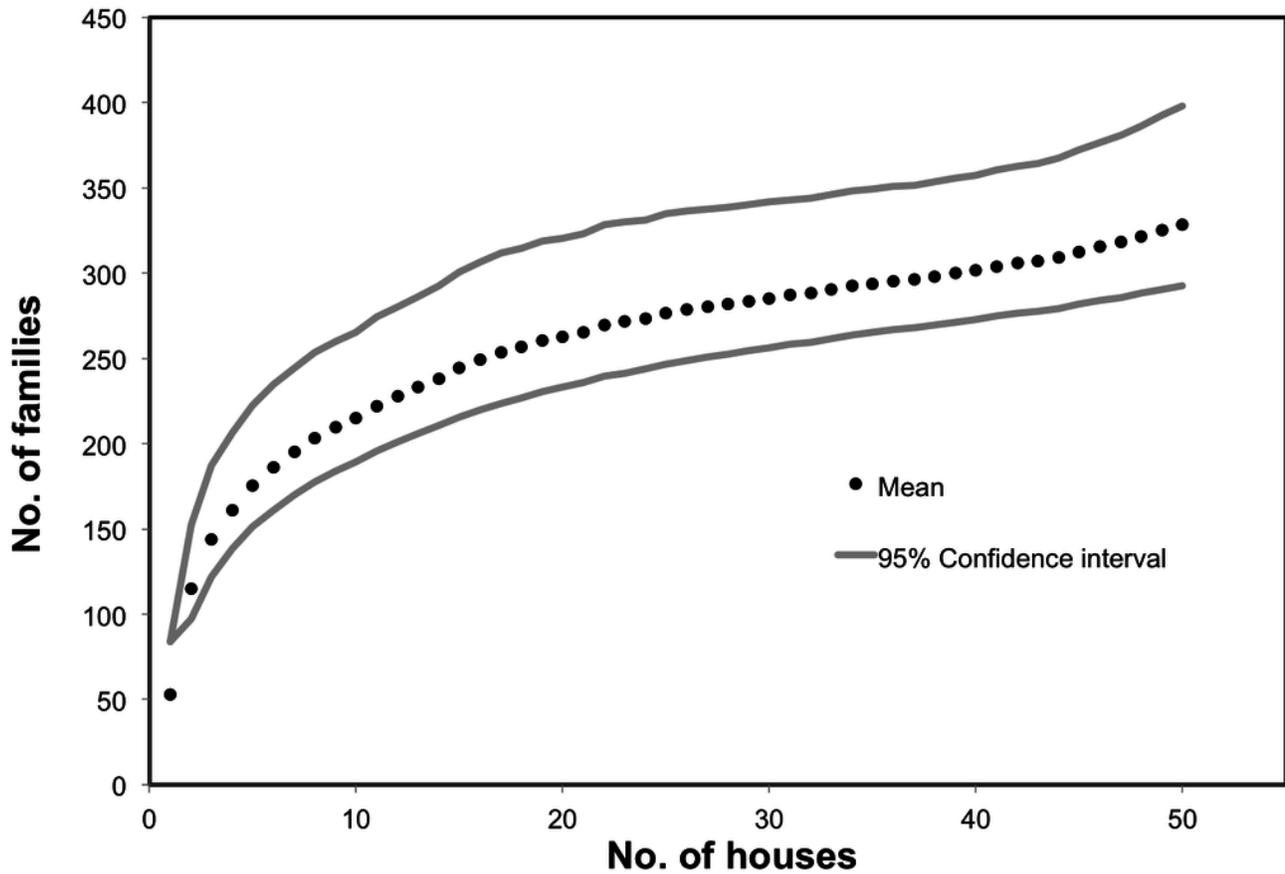
Number of species by house (in ascending rank order of house size).
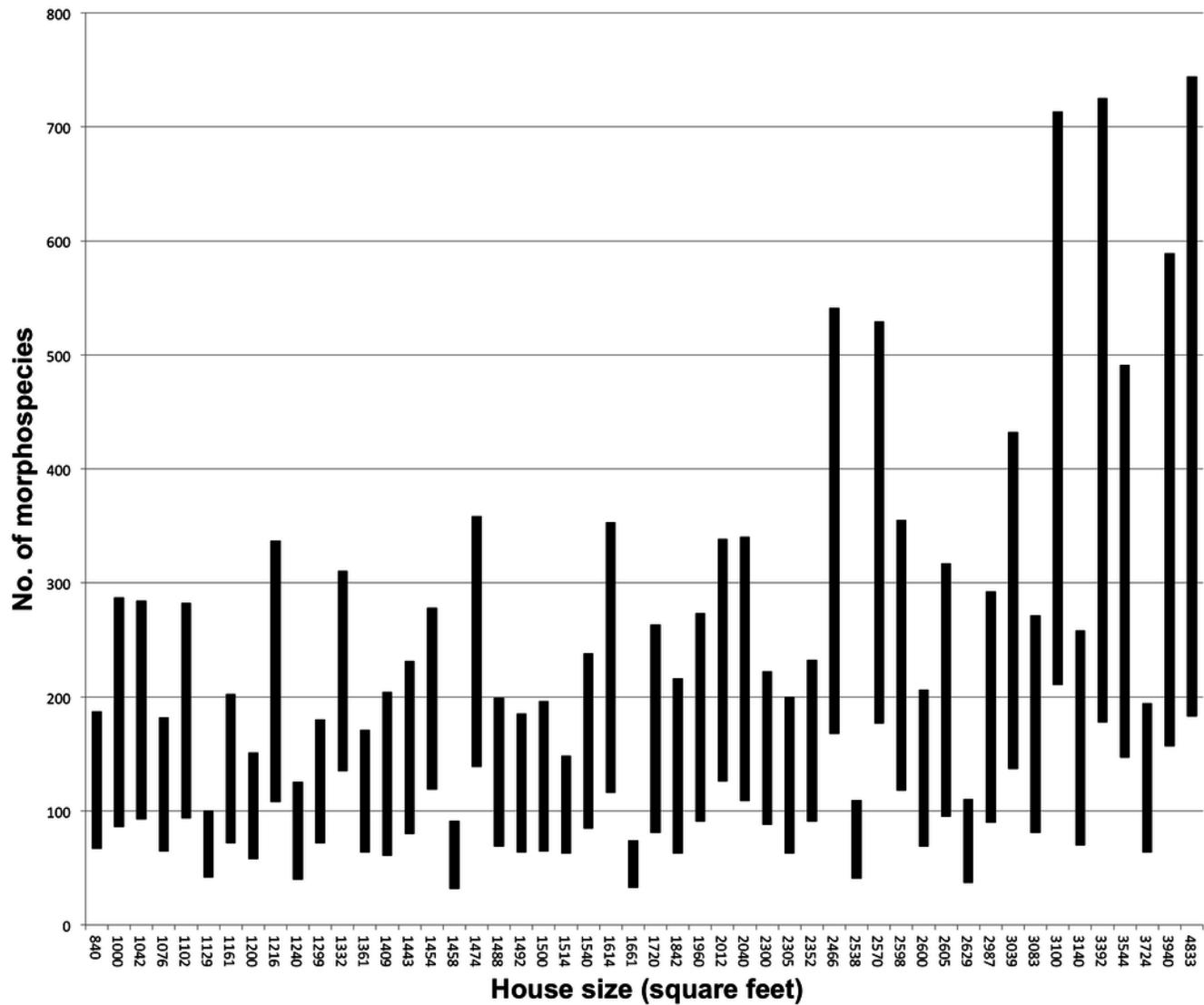
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Photographic representatives of the most frequently collected arthropod families.

PeerJ

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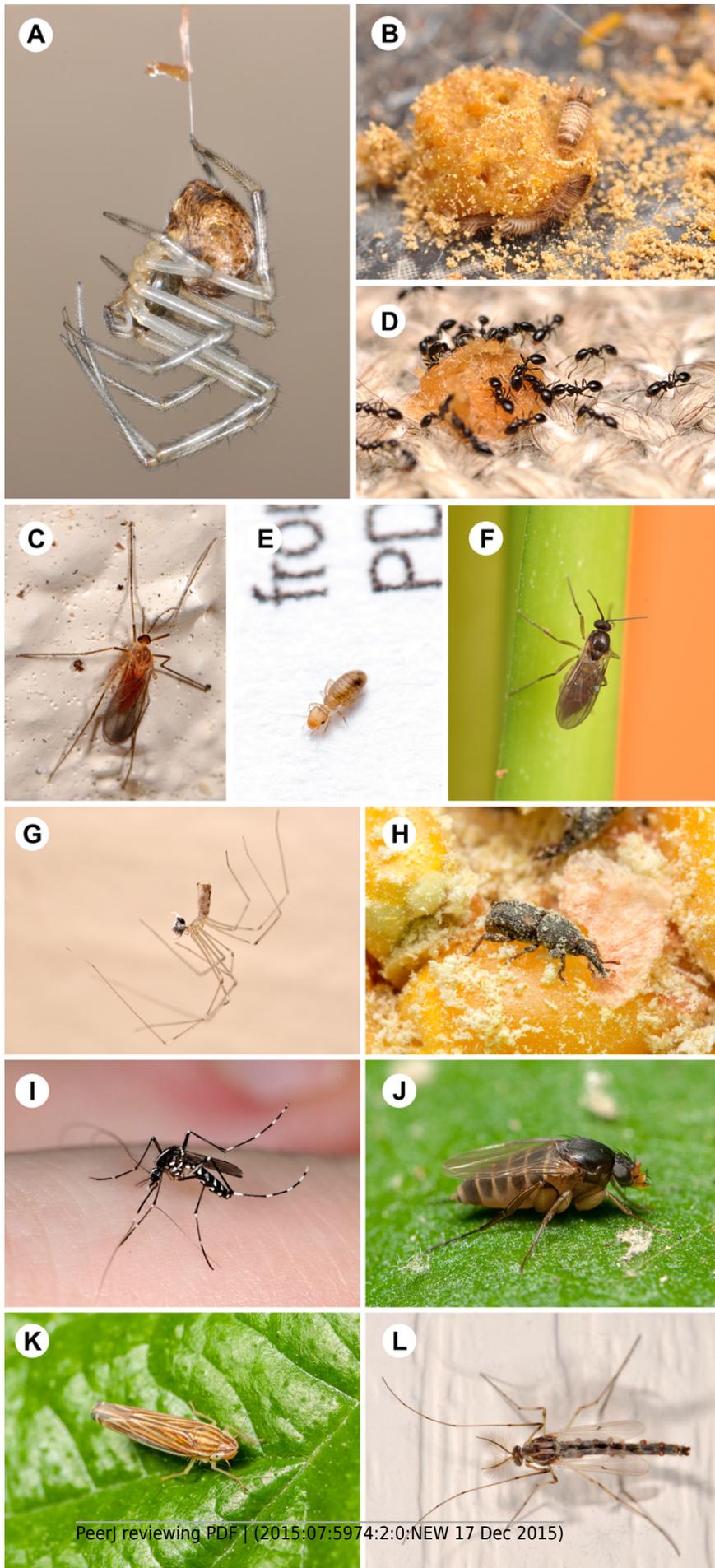
Proportional diversity of arthropod orders across all rooms.
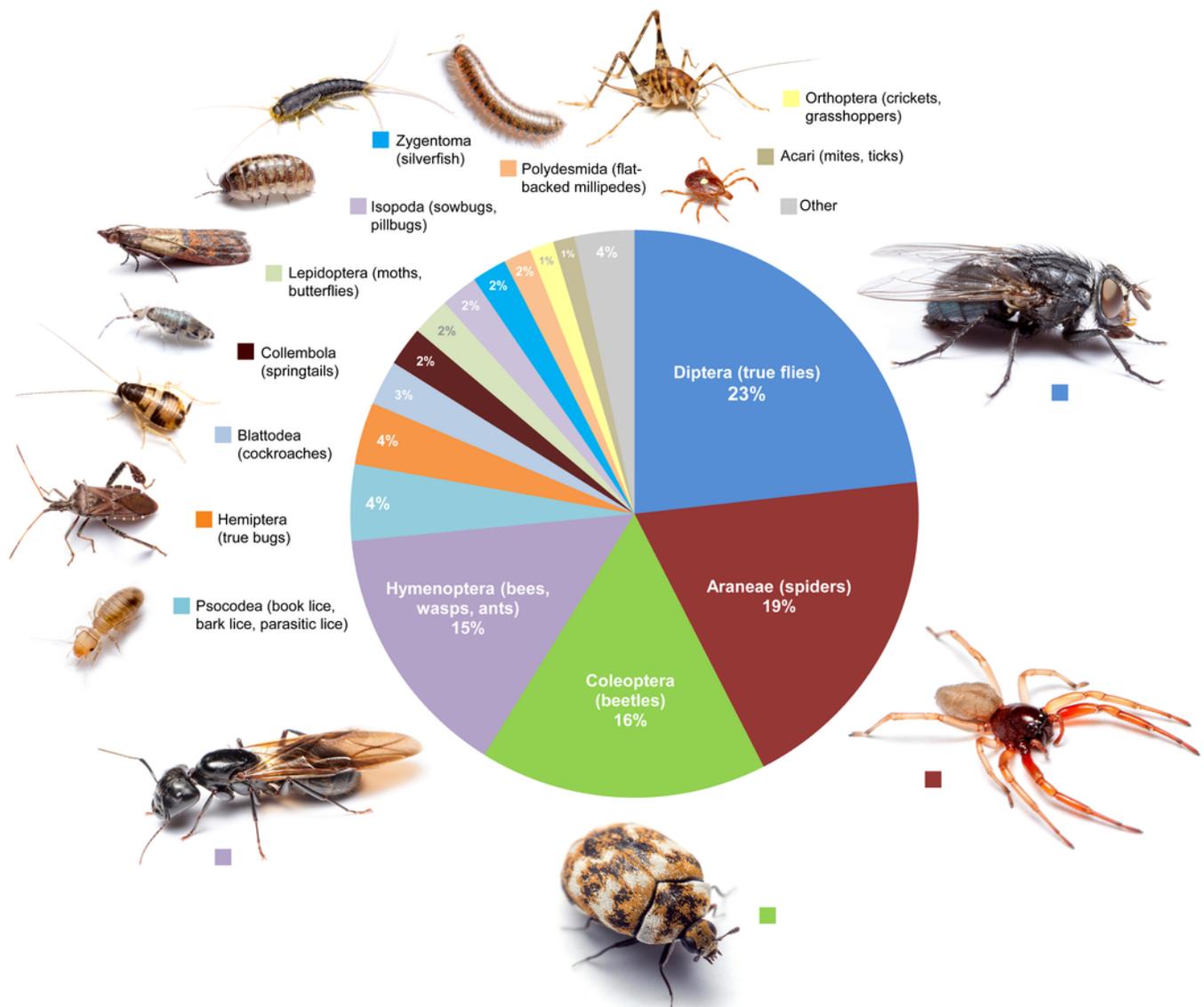
Table 1(on next page)

List of arthropods found during the study present in at least 10% (n=5) of homes.

| Class	Order	Family	Common Name	homes (n=50)	rooms (n=554)	attic (n=38)	basement (n=54)	bath (n=146)	bed (n=160)	common (n=97)	kitchen (n=50)
ENTOGNATHA (NON-INSECT HEXAPODS)				**88%**	**22.9%**	**5.3%**	**25.9%**	**15.8%**	**21.9%**	**37.1%**	**26.0%**
	Collembola (springtails)			**88%**	**22.9%**	**5.3%**	**25.9%**	**15.8%**	**21.9%**	**37.1%**	**26.0%**
		Entomobryidae	*slender springtails*	78%	19.1%	5.3%	20.4%	15.1%	16.9%	28.9%	24.0%
		Tomoceridae	*elongate springtails*	26%	3.6%	-	1.9%	0.7%	3.8%	9.3%	4.0%
INSECTA (TRUE INSECTS)				**100%**	**94.9%**	**78.9%**	**96.3%**	**91.1%**	**98.1%**	**97.9%**	**100.0%**
	Archaeognatha (jumping bristletails)			**18%**	**2.5%**	**-**	**1.9%**	**2.7%**	**1.9%**	**5.2%**	**2.0%**
		Machilidae	*jumping bristletails*	14%	2.0%	-	1.9%	1.4%	1.3%	5.2%	2.0%
	Zygentoma (silverfish)			**68%**	**21.3%**	**21.1%**	**3.7%**	**15.1%**	**23.1%**	**40.2%**	**16.0%**
		Lepismatidae	*silverfish & firebrats*	68%	21.3%	21.1%	3.7%	15.1%	23.1%	40.2%	16.0%
	Dermaptera (earwigs)			**50%**	**7.6%**	**-**	**16.7%**	**4.1%**	**6.3%**	**14.4%**	**6.0%**
		Anisolabididae	*earwigs*	26%	3.6%	-	9.3%	2.7%	2.5%	6.2%	2.0%
		Forficulidae	*earwigs*	24%	3.4%	-	7.4%	1.4%	3.1%	6.2%	4.0%
	Orthoptera (grasshoppers, crickets & katydids)			**76%**	**17.7%**	**2.6%**	**53.7%**	**7.5%**	**11.3%**	**29.9%**	**14.0%**
		Gryllidae	*crickets*	30%	3.6%	-	5.6%	2.1%	3.8%	8.2%	-
		Myrmecophilidae	*ant-loving crickets*	10%	0.9%	-	-	-	-	2.1%	6.0%
		Rhaphidophoridae	*camel & cave crickets*	58%	12.8%	-	50.0%	5.5%	6.9%	19.6%	6.0%
	Blattodea (cockroaches)			**82%**	**25.5%**	**18.4%**	**33.3%**	**14.4%**	**26.3%**	**43.3%**	**18.0%**
		Blattidae	*cockroaches*	74%	22.9%	15.8%	33.3%	12.3%	22.5%	40.2%	16.0%
		Ectobiidae	*cockroaches*	34%	4.3%	2.6%	5.6%	2.1%	3.8%	10.3%	2.0%
	Isoptera (termites)			**28%**	**4.9%**	**-**	**3.7%**	**1.4%**	**4.4%**	**12.4%**	**6.0%**
		Rhinotermitidae	*subterranean termites*	28%	4.9%	-	3.7%	1.4%	4.4%	12.4%	6.0%
	Hemiptera (true bugs)			**98%**	**36.3%**	**7.9%**	**27.8%**	**18.5%**	**36.9%**	**68.0%**	**58.0%**
		Anthocoridae	*minute pirate bugs*	42%	6.0%	-	-	2.7%	5.6%	16.5%	8.0%
		Aphididae	*aphids*	56%	7.6%	2.6%	7.4%	1.4%	6.3%	15.5%	20.0%
		Cicadellidae	*leafhoppers*	82%	16.2%	-	5.6%	8.9%	13.8%	37.1%	30.0%
		Coreidae	*leaf-footed bugs*	12%	1.1%	2.6%	-	-	1.3%	3.1%	-
		Cydnidae	*burrowing bugs*	28%	2.9%	2.6%	3.7%	1.4%	1.9%	8.2%	-

Delphacidae	delphacid planthoppers	12%	1.4%	-	1.9%	1.4%	0.6%	3.1%	-
Lygaeidae	seed bugs	10%	1.4%	-	-	0.7%	1.3%	4.1%	-
Miridae	plant bugs	44%	6.5%	-	-	2.1%	5.6%	19.6%	8.0%
Pentatomidae	stink bugs	22%	2.5%	5.3%	-	-	3.1%	5.2%	4.0%
Psyllidae s.l.	jumping plant lice	10%	0.9%	-	-	0.7%	-	3.1%	2.0%
Reduviidae	assassin bugs	28%	3.4%	-	3.7%	-	1.9%	11.3%	4.0%
Rhyparochromidae	dirt-colored seed bugs	30%	3.8%	-	3.7%	4.1%	1.9%	9.3%	2.0%
Tingidae	lace bugs	16%	1.6%	-	1.9%	1.4%	1.3%	4.1%	-
Psocodea (lice)		**98%**	**43.1%**	**36.8%**	**24.1%**	**31.5%**	**50.6%**	**60.8%**	**46.0%**
Ectopsocidae	bark lice	16%	2.0%	-	-	-	2.5%	5.2%	4.0%
Lepidopsocidae	scaly-winged bark lice	24%	4.3%	2.6%	-	0.7%	5.6%	13.4%	-
Liposcelididae	book lice	98%	37.4%	34.2%	16.7%	28.1%	44.4%	52.6%	38.0%
Thysanoptera (thrips)		**50%**	**7.0%**	**2.6%**	**5.6%**	**2.7%**	**4.4%**	**19.6%**	**8.0%**
Phlaeothripidae	tube-tailed thrips	14%	1.4%	-	1.9%	0.7%	0.6%	5.2%	-
Thripidae	common thrips	32%	4.2%	2.6%	-	2.1%	2.5%	11.3%	6.0%
Hymenoptera (wasps, ants & bees)		**100%**	**69.7%**	**50.0%**	**64.8%**	**50.7%**	**78.8%**	**85.6%**	**84.0%**
Bethylidae	bethylid wasps	28%	3.8%	-	1.9%	0.7%	2.5%	14.4%	2.0%
Braconidae	braconid wasps	52%	7.6%	-	-	4.1%	8.8%	19.6%	6.0%
Ceraphronidae	ceraphronid wasps	14%	1.4%	-	1.9%	-	-	7.2%	-
Chalcididae	chalcidid wasps	14%	1.4%	-	-	0.7%	1.9%	4.1%	-
Diapriidae	diapriid wasps	26%	2.5%	-	5.6%	-	1.3%	8.2%	2.0%
Encyrtidae	encyrtid wasps	12%	1.4%	-	-	-	1.9%	4.1%	-
Eulophidae	eulophid wasps	70%	17.0%	-	7.4%	13.0%	16.9%	30.9%	22.0%
Formicidae	ants	100%	61.9%	47.4%	57.4%	41.8%	66.3%	81.4%	82.0%
Halictidae	sweat bees	10%	0.9%	2.6%	1.9%	0.7%	-	-	4.0%
Ichneumonidae	ichneumon wasps	38%	4.5%	2.6%	5.6%	1.4%	4.4%	9.3%	4.0%
Mymaridae	fairyflies	26%	2.3%	-	-	0.7%	-	11.3%	2.0%
Platygastridae s.l.	platygastrid wasps	58%	8.3%	-	-	6.2%	5.6%	27.8%	2.0%
Pompilidae	spider wasps	34%	6.5%	2.6%	7.4%	2.7%	5.6%	17.5%	-
Pteromalidae	pteromalid wasps	42%	4.9%	-	-	2.1%	3.8%	10.3%	16.0%
Sphecidae s.l.	thread-waisted wasps	26%	3.2%	2.6%	1.9%	2.7%	3.8%	6.2%	-
Vespidae	paper wasps & hornets	14%	1.6%	5.3%	1.9%	-	1.9%	3.1%	-
Neuroptera (lacewings, antlions, etc)		**56%**	**6.9%**	**-**	**3.7%**	**2.7%**	**4.4%**	**20.6%**	**10.0%**
Chrysopidae	green lacewings	34%	3.6%	-	1.9%	1.4%	2.5%	11.3%	4.0%

Family	Common name								
Coniopterygidae	*dustywings*	16%	1.4%	-	-	0.7%	1.3%	4.1%	2.0%
Hemerobiidae	*brown lacewings*	18%	1.8%	-	-	-	-	7.2%	6.0%
Coleoptera (beetles)		**100%**	**72.0%**	**44.7%**	**64.8%**	**54.1%**	**84.4%**	**91.8%**	**72.0%**
Aderidae	*ant-like leaf beetles*	22%	2.5%	-	-	0.7%	3.1%	5.2%	6.0%
Anobiidae	*death watch beetles*	60%	12.1%	-	7.4%	5.5%	10.6%	30.9%	14.0%
Anthicidae	*ant-like flower beetles*	18%	2.3%	2.6%	-	0.7%	1.9%	7.2%	-
Carabidae	*ground beetles*	66%	9.9%	7.9%	33.3%	4.1%	6.9%	14.4%	2.0%
Cerambycidae	*longhorned beetles*	16%	1.6%	-	-	0.7%	3.1%	3.1%	-
Chrysomelidae	*leaf beetles*	46%	6.0%	-	-	1.4%	8.1%	17.5%	2.0%
Cleridae	*checkered beetles*	18%	1.8%	-	-	1.4%	3.1%	3.1%	-
Coccinellidae	*ladybugs*	52%	7.8%	5.3%	1.9%	0.7%	8.8%	22.7%	4.0%
Cryptophagidae	*silken fungus beetles*	26%	3.2%	-	-	-	2.5%	12.4%	4.0%
Curculionidae	*weevils, bark beetles*	82%	15.7%	2.6%	18.5%	9.6%	16.3%	34.0%	6.0%
Dermestidae	*carpet beetles*	100%	57.0%	26.3%	22.2%	44.5%	71.3%	82.5%	58.0%
Elateridae	*click beetles*	74%	14.6%	5.3%	13.0%	5.5%	12.5%	39.2%	8.0%
Histeridae	*clown beetles*	10%	0.9%	-	1.9%	0.7%	0.6%	2.1%	-
Lampyridae	*fireflies*	20%	2.2%	2.6%	1.9%	-	1.3%	6.2%	4.0%
Latridiidae	*minute brown scavenger beetles*	38%	6.3%	-	1.9%	1.4%	5.6%	16.5%	12.0%
Melyridae	*soft-winged flower beetles*	20%	2.9%	-	1.9%	2.7%	3.1%	5.2%	2.0%
Mordellidae	*tumbling flower beetles*	24%	3.6%	2.6%	3.7%	0.7%	3.1%	8.2%	4.0%
Mycetophagidae	*hairy fungus beetles*	20%	1.8%	2.6%	-	-	2.5%	4.1%	2.0%
Nitidulidae	*sap beetles*	24%	3.1%	-	3.7%	-	2.5%	10.3%	2.0%
Phalacridae	*shining flower beetles*	12%	1.3%	-	1.9%	-	0.6%	5.2%	-
Ptilodactylidae	*ptilodactylid beetles*	30%	4.9%	2.6%	3.7%	2.1%	5.6%	9.3%	6.0%
Scarabaeidae	*scarab beetles*	52%	9.4%	5.3%	13.0%	2.7%	8.1%	20.6%	10.0%
Scraptiidae	*false flower beetles*	20%	2.0%	-	-	0.7%	1.9%	6.2%	2.0%
Silvanidae	*flat bark beetles*	46%	6.5%	-	9.3%	2.1%	5.0%	17.5%	4.0%
Staphylinidae	*rove beetles*	54%	7.2%	-	7.4%	4.8%	5.0%	17.5%	6.0%
Tenebrionidae	*darkling beetles*	62%	11.2%	5.3%	16.7%	4.8%	11.3%	24.7%	2.0%
Throscidae	*false metallic wood boring beetles*	22%	2.7%	-	1.9%	0.7%	1.9%	9.3%	2.0%
Trogossitidae	*bark gnawing beetles*	16%	1.4%	-	-	0.7%	0.6%	6.2%	-
Zopheridae	*ironclad beetles*	16%	1.4%	-	-	-	2.5%	1.0%	6.0%
Lepidoptera (moths & butterflies)		**92%**	**28.7%**	**-**	**16.7%**	**11.6%**	**33.8%**	**56.7%**	**38.0%**
Geometridae	*geometrid moths*	12%	1.6%	-	1.9%	0.7%	1.9%	2.1%	2.0%
Noctuidae	*owlet moths*	44%	5.8%	-	3.7%	4.1%	5.0%	12.4%	6.0%
Pyralidae	*pyralid moths*	62%	11.0%	-	3.7%	4.8%	12.5%	21.6%	22.0%
Tineidae	*clothes moths*	60%	8.8%	-	-	5.5%	9.4%	19.6%	10.0%

Tortricidae	*leafroller moths*	10%	1.1%	-	-	0.7%	0.6%	4.1%	-
Trichoptera (caddisflies)		**12%**	**1.1%**	**-**	**-**	**0.7%**	**1.3%**	**3.1%**	**-**
Siphonaptera (fleas)		**10%**	**1.4%**	**-**	**-**	**2.7%**	**1.3%**	**1.0%**	**2.0%**
Pulicidae	*cat, dog & human fleas*	10%	1.4%	-	-	2.7%	1.3%	1.0%	2.0%
Diptera (true flies)		**100%**	**71.8%**	**18.4%**	**50.0%**	**66.4%**	**85.6%**	**85.6%**	**80.0%**
Agromyzidae	*leafminer flies*	12%	1.1%	-	-	0.7%	0.6%	3.1%	2.0%
Anisopodidae	*wood gnats*	10%	0.9%	-	-	-	0.6%	3.1%	2.0%
Anthomyiidae	*root maggot flies*	10%	0.9%	-	-	-	1.3%	1.0%	4.0%
Bibionidae	*march flies, lovebugs*	26%	2.7%	-	-	0.7%	3.8%	7.2%	2.0%
Calliphoridae	*blow flies*	48%	8.1%	-	5.6%	2.7%	7.5%	23.7%	6.0%
Cecidomyiidae	*gall midges*	100%	36.1%	10.5%	16.7%	30.1%	33.8%	63.9%	46.0%
Ceratopogonidae	*biting midges*	54%	7.6%	-	-	3.4%	8.8%	18.6%	10.0%
Chaoboridae	*phantom midges*	14%	3.4%	-	-	3.4%	1.9%	8.2%	6.0%
Chironomidae	*non-biting midges*	80%	17.0%	-	3.7%	8.9%	13.8%	42.3%	30.0%
Chloropidae	*frit flies*	28%	4.3%	-	-	3.4%	3.1%	10.3%	8.0%
Culicidae	*mosquitoes*	82%	19.0%	-	5.6%	7.5%	24.4%	41.2%	22.0%
Dolichopodidae	*longlegged flies*	44%	4.9%	-	3.7%	2.7%	4.4%	12.4%	4.0%
Drosophilidae	*fruit flies, vinegar flies*	66%	13.7%	-	5.6%	4.8%	15.6%	29.9%	22.0%
Empididae s.l.	*dance flies*	16%	1.8%	-	1.9%	0.7%	1.3%	6.2%	-
Ephydridae	*shore flies*	14%	1.4%	-	-	1.4%	-	6.2%	-
Fanniidae	*lesser house flies*	10%	1.1%	-	1.9%	0.7%	0.6%	1.0%	4.0%
Lauxaniidae	*lauxaniid flies*	16%	1.6%	-	-	0.7%	1.3%	6.2%	-
Milichiidae	*freeloader flies*	14%	1.6%	-	-	0.7%	1.9%	4.1%	-
Muscidae	*house & stable flies*	44%	6.3%	2.6%	5.6%	1.4%	5.6%	16.5%	4.0%
Mycetophilidae s.l.	*fungus gnats*	68%	16.2%	-	9.3%	8.2%	20.6%	37.1%	6.0%
Phoridae	*scuttle flies*	82%	17.3%	-	20.4%	6.2%	16.9%	39.2%	18.0%
Psychodidae	*moth flies*	74%	18.8%	-	9.3%	14.4%	18.1%	41.2%	14.0%
Sarcophagidae	*flesh flies*	38%	5.1%	-	-	2.7%	4.4%	12.4%	6.0%
Scatopsidae	*minute black scavenger flies*	50%	6.9%	-	1.9%	5.5%	4.4%	16.5%	10.0%
Sciaridae	*dark-winged fungus gnats*	96%	42.1%	-	22.2%	35.6%	49.4%	64.9%	42.0%
Sphaeroceridae	*lesser dung flies*	28%	3.4%	2.6%	11.1%	2.1%	2.5%	5.2%	-
Stratiomyidae	*soldier flies*	22%	2.3%	-	1.9%	0.7%	0.6%	8.2%	2.0%
Tachinidae	*tachinid flies*	18%	1.6%	-	-	-	1.9%	5.2%	2.0%
Tipulidae s.l.	*crane flies*	74%	15.9%	2.6%	7.4%	11.0%	16.9%	32.0%	18.0%
Trichoceridae	*winter crane flies*	20%	2.3%	-	1.9%	2.1%	1.9%	6.2%	-

ARACHNIDA (ARACHNIDS)		100%	79.6%	47.4%	94.4%	68.5%	78.1%	96.9%	90.0%
Araneae (spiders)		100%	78.5%	47.4%	92.6%	68.5%	75.6%	96.9%	88.0%
Agelenidae	*funnel weavers, grass spiders*	46%	8.3%	2.6%	20.4%	2.1%	6.9%	16.5%	6.0%
Anyphaenidae	*ghost spiders*	30%	4.3%	-	1.9%	0.7%	5.6%	11.3%	4.0%
Araneidae	*orb weavers*	18%	2.2%	-	1.9%	1.4%	1.3%	6.2%	2.0%
Clubionidae	*sac spiders*	10%	0.9%	-	-	-	-	4.1%	2.0%
Corinnidae	*antmimics, ground spiders*	38%	6.0%	5.3%	9.3%	1.4%	6.9%	11.3%	4.0%
Gnaphosidae	*ground spiders*	48%	8.1%	-	5.6%	3.4%	10.0%	20.6%	2.0%
Linyphiidae	*sheetweb & dwarf spiders*	22%	2.9%	-	3.7%	-	1.3%	10.3%	2.0%
Lycosidae	*wolf spiders*	40%	5.8%	2.6%	5.6%	2.1%	2.5%	16.5%	8.0%
Oecobiidae	*wall spiders*	28%	8.8%	2.6%	-	6.2%	10.0%	18.6%	8.0%
Oonopidae	*goblin spiders*	16%	3.2%	5.3%	-	2.1%	3.8%	6.2%	2.0%
Pholcidae	*cellar spiders*	84%	28.0%	7.9%	38.9%	19.2%	18.1%	56.7%	32.0%
Salticidae	*jumping spiders*	50%	8.3%	2.6%	3.7%	2.7%	7.5%	22.7%	6.0%
Scytodidae	*spitting spiders*	16%	2.7%	-	1.9%	3.4%	2.5%	4.1%	2.0%
Theridiidae	*cobweb spiders*	100%	65.3%	39.5%	77.8%	55.5%	61.3%	87.6%	70.0%
Thomisidae	*crab spiders*	32%	3.4%	2.6%	1.9%	-	4.4%	9.3%	2.0%
"Acari" (mites)		76%	18.6%	5.3%	46.3%	4.8%	17.5%	36.1%	10.0%
Galumnidae	*armored mites*	12%	1.1%	-	1.9%	-	0.6%	4.1%	-
Ixodidae	*hard ticks*	18%	2.0%	-	-	0.7%	1.9%	7.2%	-
UnID Oribatida	*armored mites*	46%	6.0%	-	22.2%	1.4%	3.8%	12.4%	2.0%
Pyroglyphidae	*dust mites*	76%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Opiliones (harvestmen & daddy-longlegs)		16%	2.3%	2.6%	3.7%	0.7%	2.5%	5.2%	-
Pseudoscorpionida (pseudoscorpions)		20%	2.7%	-	3.7%	0.7%	0.6%	10.3%	2.0%
CHILOPODA (CENTIPEDES) 42%		42%	9.2%	-	16.7%	4.1%	9.4%	16.5%	10.0%
Lithobiomorpha (stone centipedes)		18%	1.8%	-	1.9%	-	1.9%	5.2%	2.0%
Lithobiidae	*stone centipedes*	14%	1.3%	-	1.9%	-	1.9%	2.1%	2.0%
Scolopendromorpha (tropical centipedes)		12%	2.2%	-	5.6%	0.7%	1.9%	5.2%	-
Scolopendridae	*tropical centipedes*	12%	2.2%	-	5.6%	0.7%	1.9%	5.2%	-

Scutigeromorpha (house centipedes)		**32%**	**6.9%**	**-**	**13.0%**	**3.4%**	**6.9%**	**10.3%**	**10.0%**
Scutigeridae	*house centipedes*	32%	6.9%	-	13.0%	3.4%	6.9%	10.3%	10.0%
DIPLOPODA (MILLIPEDES)		**82%**	**21.1%**	**5.3%**	**63.0%**	**6.2%**	**15.0%**	**38.1%**	**16.0%**
Callipodida (crested millipedes)		**10%**	**1.8%**	**-**	**5.6%**	**-**	**2.5%**	**3.1%**	**-**
Abacionidae	*crested millipedes*	10%	1.8%	-	5.6%	-	2.5%	3.1%	-
Julida (julid millipedes)		**42%**	**4.7%**	**-**	**18.5%**	**2.1%**	**2.5%**	**9.3%**	**-**
Julidae	*millipedes*	38%	3.8%	-	11.1%	2.1%	2.5%	8.2%	-
Polydesmida (flat-backed millipedes)		**72%**	**17.7%**	**5.3%**	**57.4%**	**4.8%**	**13.1%**	**29.9%**	**14.0%**
Paradoxosomatidae	*greenhouse millipedes*	58%	12.6%	2.6%	42.6%	2.7%	9.4%	22.7%	10.0%
Polydesmidae	*flat-backed millipedes*	26%	4.3%	-	16.7%	1.4%	1.3%	8.2%	4.0%
Spirobolida (round-backed millipedes)		**20%**	**2.3%**	**-**	**14.8%**	**0.7%**	**-**	**3.1%**	**2.0%**
Spirobolidae	*round-backed millipedes*	18%	2.2%	-	14.8%	0.7%	-	2.1%	2.0%
MALACOSTRACA (CRUSTACEANS)		**86%**	**23.8%**	**5.3%**	**57.4%**	**14.4%**	**20.0%**	**34.0%**	**22.0%**
Isopoda (isopods)		**84%**	**23.6%**	**5.3%**	**57.4%**	**14.4%**	**20.0%**	**34.0%**	**20.0%**
Armadillidiidae	*pillbugs & roly polies*	78%	22.0%	5.3%	48.1%	13.7%	18.8%	33.0%	20.0%
Porcellionidae	*woodlice & sowbugs*	20%	4.2%	-	14.8%	1.4%	3.8%	5.2%	4.0%

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