**Basic Entomology Items**

Sweep Net (canvas) and/or Aerial Net (fine mesh)

Styrofoam block to pin on. The denser home insulation is better.

No. 2 insect pins

Hand lens and/or access to dissecting microscope

Killing Jar

Short term you can use a jar and place a paper towel soaked in Ethyl Acetate inside the jar. Some insects die quicker than others. Plaster of Paris is poured into the bottom of a plastic mayo jar, which is then “charged” with ethyl acetate. Acetone free nail polish remover is mostly ethyl acetate and can be used as a killing agent.

Insect Box

The cost for these varies. Some are cardboard, some cardboard with glass in lid, while others are made of wood. A box with a tight-fitting lid is important so that dermestid beetles do not eat your collection. The inside of the box is lined with foam. You will want to find something to ensure that dermestids do not infest your collection, such as Moth Ice Crystals (Paradichlorobenzene). Moisture and associated mold are also a potential problem and desiccant packages can be used to help alleviate this.

There are many companies that may have what you need for insect collecting and pinning. Bioquip, Ward’s Science, and Carolina Biological Supplies are three examples. You can also look on Amazon.