

Field & Lab Drawings

Most of the labs that we will do this year will require you to use your powers of observation and record them in the form of a sketch or description. Let me say, first and foremost, that I am not an art teacher and am not out to make you into artists. That said, what I expect is that you will record, as ACCURATELY as possible what you see, not what you think you see, and not what you saw two days ago. A good lab drawing contains the following elements:

The Sketch

Make your sketches on the spot and put as much detail as possible into them . . . but remember they are sketches, not masterpieces which will be hung on the wall. Sketches shouldn't take you more than a few minutes to do. Sketches are to be made in pencil in your lab notebook. Finally your sketches should be large enough for you to include detail. A good rule of thumb is to use at least a half page for each sketch . . . you'll begin to recognize what is reasonable after a while.

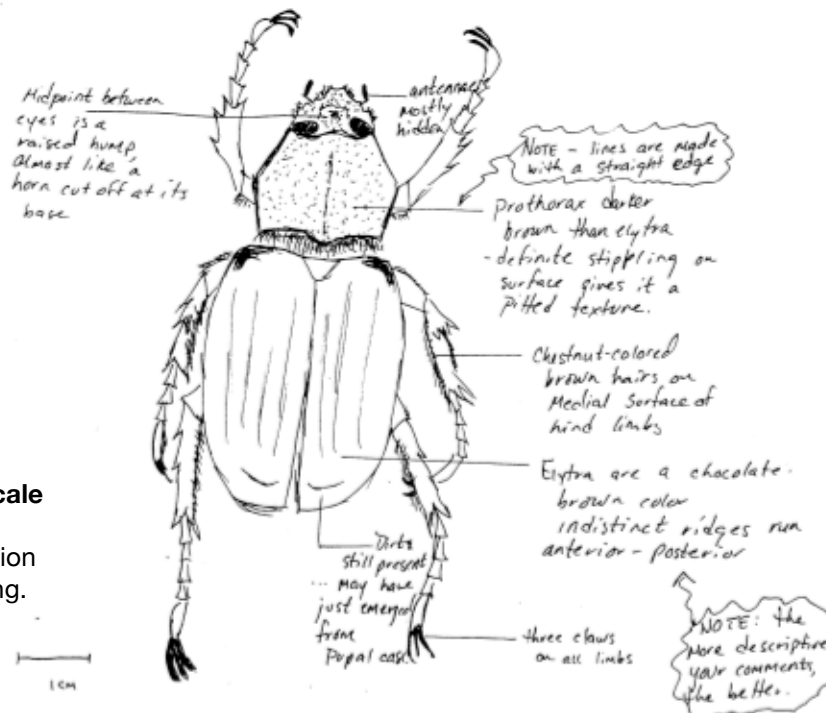


Figure 1. Unknown sp. of Scarabidae

unidentified scarab beetle
Collected by C. Chang in
Lai long, Hsinchu Co., Tai

The Magnification & Scale

Calculate the magnification and scale of your drawing. Include this information below the title.

Notes & Labels

Notes can be made right on your drawings. Use a straight edge to make horizontal lines extending away from your sketch, and write your notes at the end of these lines. Your notes should be as DESCRIPTIVE as possible. The notes are to help you, and possibly another person, identify your sketched object.

The Title

Always put a title on your sketches (titles go at the bottom of the sketch).