Invertebrate Zoology Practical Exam Tips

The Invertebrate Zoology practical exam will be in lab on Wed. Dec. 5. It will start a little later than lab usually does, at 2:30 PM and end at 5:00. It will focus on diversity of form and function in the animals we have worked with in lab so far this semester. This will be an open notes and open book exam. Please do not assume that this means that you do not have to study. Most of the questions are not the sort that you can actually look-up. There will be a time limit and if you spend all of your allotted time flipping through pages of your book looking for a photo that matches what is in front of you, you will have difficulty finishing in time.

Questions will focus on:

-identifying the larger taxonomic groups to which specimens belong. (you should know all of the taxonomic information on the cards that have been put out with lab specimens throughout the semester.

-identifying the defining characteristics of larger taxonomic groups as exhibited by specific specimens.

-identifying life cycle stages of various organisms and describing the habitat or host from which they came.

-identifying morphological adaptations to specific lifestyles, feeding methods or habitats, e.g. “What adaptations for ectoparasitism are evident in this specimen?”

-using a dichotomous key to distinguish between insect families.

-identifying evolutionary relationships and evolutionary trends shown by specimens.

-you should know the morphology of every organism that was dissected and the functions of the structures that were emphasized.