

Video Transcript - Photographing and Illustrating the Biocube Specimens

- Liittschwager: It's important to take pictures, because then it becomes a document that you can share about what you found in the cube. It's like a form of data. It's a permanent record of what you found in your survey.
- Liittschwager: You can use your cellphone or something like that. You might need a close-up lens, but just a really inexpensive little magnifying lens held in front of the cellphone. Just any sort of, you know, reasonable digital camera will be adequate to the task. Well, for the really small stuff, [00:00:30] that may take a special setup. But like the beetles and the earthworms and that stuff, a normal little camera will work just fine.
- Liittschwager: Can somebody grab me a spoon? We're going to separate one of these onto here.
- Student: Oh, here's a spoon.
- Liittschwager: Okay, thank you. We got this plain white background. Let's get him out in the center of the background. Hold on. Let me get this. Let me move him. He's in a bad place. Hold on. Let me reach in there. [00:01:00] Okay, here we go. So, go ahead and stand up. Stand up straight and come around. We'll let the light in. Can you get a little closer even?
- Student: Good?
- Liittschwager: Little closer still. Looks pretty good to me. What do you think?
- Student: Great, I'll try it.
- Liittschwager: You ready? Go for it. Okay. Check it.
- Student: Perfect.
- Liittschwager: It's pretty good. It shows the tail and the head and the sections. You can identify that as, you know, right here. [00:01:30]
- Liittschwager: From the scientific drawing to the picture that you have. So we can confirm that species ID.
- Liittschwager: Do you want to do an isopod?
- Student: Sure.
- Liittschwager: Okay.

Liittschwager: So, we'll try to get a big one here.

Student: Okay.

Liittschwager: It's worth taking the time to make it kind of nice. Get enough water so it turns over. There we go, yeah. Because the light's coming from there. Little closer if you can. That's good. Looks pretty good. Great.

Student: Okay.

Liittschwager: Okay, so let's just look at it. There's a button right [00:02:00] there that you can look. Nice, very descriptive. You can count the legs. You got the different things on the tail, see its antennas. You get a little bit of the texture. So you have lots of information there.

Liittschwager: You see that this takes a long time.

Student: Yeah.

Liittschwager: It's a process. So, I think what we'll do is, I'll take a picture of a specimen. So, can you choose what specimen you'd like to be photographed with the fancy camera?

Student: The phantom crane fly.

Liittschwager: The phantom crane fly.

Chris Meyer: And now an important part of what [00:02:30] we're doing, and this is a very important part, is that we're going to give it a label. Right here, this is the 54th thing, and drop it in the cup.

Liittschwager: And it's got a little code on the front of it that's this location. So, if we can't ... this number will now travel with this specimen and every representation of it. The picture and the DNA barcode and all of that stuff.

Liittschwager: So come over here.

Student: [inaudible 00:02:54] How can you be on camera?

Liittschwager: We have to get a good descriptive picture of this. That's part of how it moves.

Liittschwager: [00:03:00] Okay, now he's near the edge. I'm going to shake him back.

Student: Oh, it's moving.

Student: Yeah, they're showing up on the screen.

Liittschwager: And then, we get to see sort of how it moves.

Student: That's so cool.

Student: Oh, it's moving.

Liittschwager: Okay, is it working? We got-

Student: Yeah.

Student: Yeah, it is.

Liittschwager: We got. decent exposure and everything?

Student: Yeah.

Liittschwager: Okay, now that I know I have a good picture of this, I can take it over to Chris.
[00:03:30]

Liittschwager: Photographing and illustrating the specimens. Multiple views can be helpful for species ID: top, sides, bottom. Try for sharp, well-lit and clean. Photographs can be shared to help with the identification process. If you put the creature back, the photograph is your only proof. Use a plain, neutral background. I like white, but black can work nicely [00:04:00] too for some specimens.