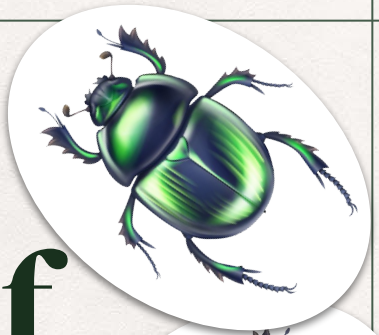
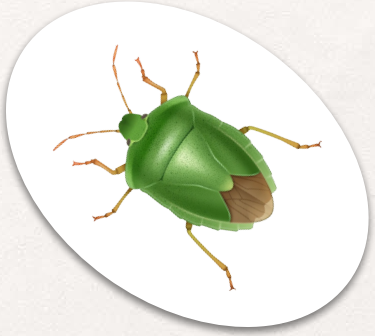
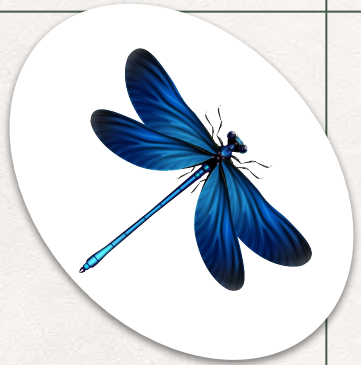


The Collapse Of Insects

Archana Senthil

Table of contents





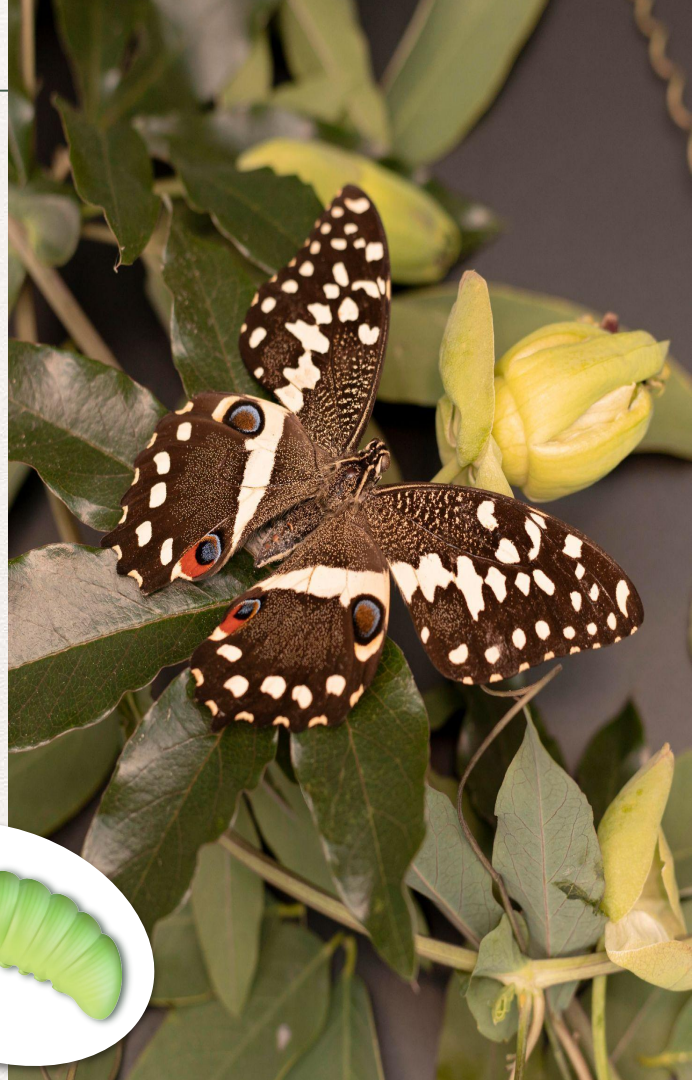
01.
Introduction

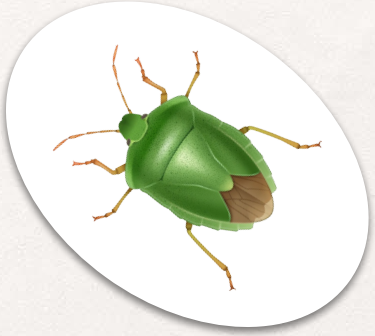
- The data story was created by **Julia Janicki, Gloria Dickie, Simon Scarr**, **Jitesh Chowdhury** and illustrator **Catherine Tai.**

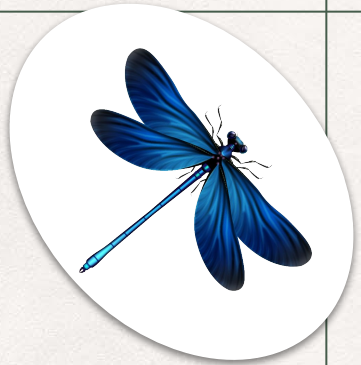
- The data was collected from the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** 2021 publication - An introduction to higher -level classification and taxonomic richness.

- The **conservation status** study assessed **12,100 species of insects** (i.e) 1% of the total insect population,

- Though the **processing and tools were not explicitly mentioned**, the common tools used for these illustrations are adobe illustrato, React.js and some python libraries.







02.
Takeaways

Decline in Insect Population

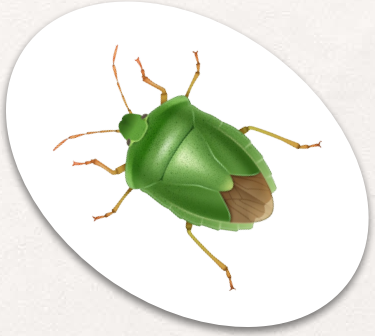
1) Studies showed that there is a 9% loss of land-dwelling insect population every decade.
2) Many species of bees, butterflies, beetles, freshwater insects are considered threatened.
3) Lost 5% to 10% of all insect species in the last 150 years.

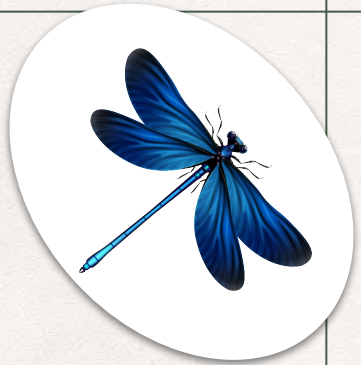
Potential Causes

1) From habitat loss and industrial farming to climate change, everything has an impact on the population.
2) The introduction of non-native plant has a adverse effect on single plant species.

Impact on ecosystem

1) With insects pollinating more than 75% of the global crops, there will be less yield and therefore less food.
2) Disruptions in the food chain affecting the ecosystem and thus eroding nature.





03.
Strengths

Visually Appealing

This story had the a beautiful illustrations that clearly highlights the topic.

Real-time problem

The story has focussed on a real time issue and also suggests possible solutions.

Interactive visualizations

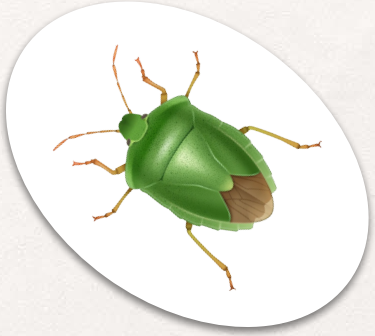
The interactive visualizations especially while demonstrating the insect count keeps the reading engaged.

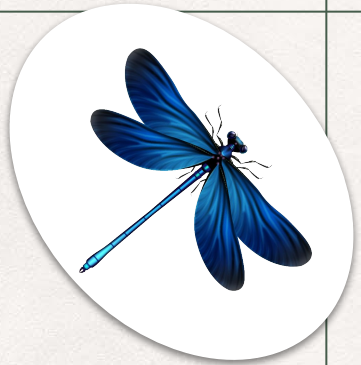
Impactful Narrative

The datastory included stories that relates to our childhood and also gave reasoning for a statement with examples.

Well - Structured

The story was very well structured with a logical way and was easy to follow.





04.
Weakness

Potential Bias

The data is from specific regions. Drawing conclusions about a global decline in insect populations based on this limited scope may introduce bias and may not accurately reflect worldwide trends.

High Variability

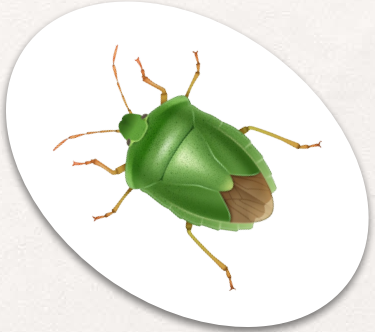
The research highlights that while the insect population is declining, the freshwater insect population is increasing. Thus suggesting that the insect population is not uniformly declining across all habitats.

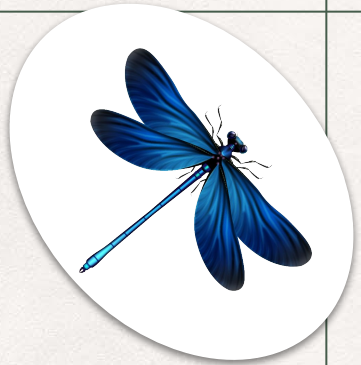
Challenges in Data Collection

The study covers only 1% of the total insect species, leaving over a million species. The limitations in data gathering make the analysis incomplete and less conclusive.

Limited Visualizations of Individual Species

The study provides detailed insights into the populations of various species, the lack of visual representations makes it harder to grasp key information at a glance.





05.
Recommendations

- The nested proportional **area chart** features **irregular shapes**, making **comparisons challenging**. It is difficult to determine whether the number of species relative to other vertebrates is greater, lesser, or the same. Using a **treemap** or a graph with uniform shapes would have **improved clarity and interpretation**.

- A **multiple-line graph** depicting the **decline in insect populations** over the years, at least for the species mentioned in the data story, would have provided a **clearer visual representation** of the trend, making it easier to interpret than relying solely on textual descriptions.

- The **visualization representing sub-groups** indicating whether species are threatened or extinct could have been more effective, as smaller sub-groups are **difficult to read**. Instead of displaying information for all species, **a ratio or a focused count of extinct and threatened species** could have been presented using a **stacked bar chart** or a similar alternative for better clarity.

Thanks!

Links

Data Story -
https://www.reuters.com/graphics/GLOBAL-ENVIRONMENT/INSECT-APOCALYPSE/egpbykdxjvq/

Detailed Report -
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1f_b3P9HOe8NyqQm4vol7bYJZ8biyjGtBaBsiU0wT4hs/edit?tab=t.0