

Catch the Reading Bug!  
Venus Flytrap and Buzzy Beetle: Their Story  
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Bug scientists Venus Flytrap and Buzzy Beetle are buzzing with excitement over a large population of Reading Bugs recently found at the Newport Public Library. “The Reading Bug is very unique and beautiful,” Dr. Flytrap fluttered. She explains that “Reading Bugs can be found devouring a good novel at the library, picking at a paperback on the beach, or swarming over a magazine left behind at a picnic. In fact, Reading Bugs will thrive anywhere ample reading material can be found.”

Most insects that live in colonies develop very specialized functions. However the Reading Bug is different in that each individual Reading Bug develops its own habits and tastes. Its steady diet of knowledge, information, fancy and imagination has helped Reading Bugs to create a highly sophisticated and varied insect society. Currently scientists understand very little about Reading Bugs and how they affect human populations. “That,” chirped Dr. Buzzy Beetle, “is what makes this infestation so important. It gives us a great opportunity to learn about the Reading Bug and why people who catch one usually end up reading more themselves.”

Because the infestation at the Newport Public Library is so large, Dr.’s Flytrap and Beetle are asking for volunteers from the community to help observe and document these intriguing creatures. According to Dr. Beetle, “The lifecycle of the Reading Bug makes it very active during the summer months, when the weather is warm. Naturally this will be the best time for volunteers to catch and observe a Reading Bug.” The scientists suggest catching a Reading Bug by migrating to the Newport Public Library and browsing the shelves for an interesting book. Buzzy says, “Sometimes one will just seem to fly off the shelf into your hands.”

“Once home,” advises Flytrap, “examine the book carefully. If the book catches your interest, sparks your imagination, or makes you excited about finding out more, the book is crawling with Reading Bugs.” Dr. Buzzy Beetle adds, “Reading Bugs are big eaters, so once you’ve found yours, be sure to keep it well feed. We suggest a steady diet of at least one book a week. The book can be any kind or size of book at all.”

The scientists are asking volunteers to make observations about their Reading Bug in a Reading Log. According to Flytrap, “Just knowing which 6 titles your Reading Bug enjoyed the most will provide us with a great deal of new knowledge about this interesting insect.” Both scientists implore that for the sake of reading, science and the insects, every child should catch a Reading Bug at the Newport Public Library this summer!