

MicroCT imaging of insects

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In order to gather, manage and disseminate biodiversity information in a meaningful time frame, there is an urgent need to develop and utilise new methodologies for capturing and digitising a wide range of information. Critical among these are technologies for capturing and managing morphological information that might match some of the advances made in genomic technology. MicroCT imaging is examined as a potentially powerful tool in insect systematics and morphology, which could have utility in research, teaching and training, digital dissemination of biodiversity data, and ultimately in a variety of accelerated phenomics platforms. Examples of high-resolution CT scans are presented. Potential uses, advantages and drawbacks of this technology are discussed, along with the time, computing and storage implications of acquiring and rendering insects with MicroCT.

