

# Meet the Entomologist

## Dr. John Morse



I grew up in Winston-Salem, NC, where I attended R.J. Reynolds High School. Subsequently, I studied for my Bachelor of Science degree in Biology at Davidson College, Davidson, NC (1968), my Master of Science degree in Entomology at Clemson University, Clemson, SC (1970), and my Doctor of Philosophy degree in Entomology at the University of Georgia, Athens, GA (1974). I joined the faculty at Clemson in 1974 and "retired" officially in 2008. Since then I have continued my academic activities (teaching, research, public outreach) as a volunteer.

## Caddisfly Taxonomy & Aquatic Entomology

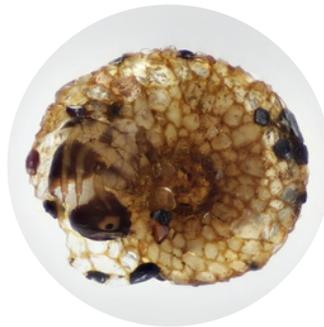
My research specialty is the identification, biology, and historical development of caddisflies, which I have studied in many streams of the world since 1967. My students and I also investigate the identification, biology, and distribution of other aquatic insects, of stream ecology and conservation, and of the use of insect communities to monitor water pollution.

### A bit about me!

I am a Professor Emeritus of Entomology. Besides courses in insect systematics, insect larvae, and a variety of other topics, I have taught courses related to aquatic insects at Clemson, at Highlands Biological Station in North Carolina, in several other states, and in 9 countries so far in East Asia for more than 50 years.

### Why Did I Choose Entomology?

I enjoyed playing in creeks while growing up, building dams, chasing crayfish and frogs, and watching water striders and whirligig beetles. As a biology major in college, my uncle showed me some caddisflies and the fascinating portable cases and stationary filternets they make. I have enjoyed learning about them ever since.



As the 7th largest order of insects, there are more than 17,000 species of caddisflies (Trichoptera) worldwide, more than the combined total for all other primarily aquatic insects (mayflies, stoneflies, dragonflies, damselflies, dobsonflies, fishflies, and alderflies). As underwater architects, the larvae use silk from their mouths to build many kinds of portable houses (cases) or stationary retreats and silken webs (like spiders, but under water). They live in as many different kinds of habitats and eat as many kinds of food and move in as many different ways as any other insects that live in the water. You can never be bored with caddisflies!