Catching Killers: Insect Evidence

1. Who was murdered in Bakersfield, CA in July 2003?
2. How were the victims murdered?
3. What forensic evidence was found?
4. What family member was not murdered?
5. Describe Vincent Brothers.
6. Where does Brothers say he was? What evidence does he have to support this?
7. What about the rental car is suspicious?
8. What does Detective Watts think happened?
9. What piece of evidence was found in the rental car?
10. How many species of insects are there on the planet?
11. When were insects first used as a forensic tool?
12. How many victims were found on the riverbank? How did they know this?
13. What insect do they use to determine how long the bodies were left outside?
14. What scientist determined that flies breed maggots in the 1600’s? Describe the experiment.
15. When was it first hypothesized that an insect lifecycle should be used to determine an approximate time of death?
16. What are the first insect to arrive on dead bodies?
17. What is the purpose of the Body Farm?
18. How many eggs can a female blow fly lay?
19. What maggots do you want to collect from a body? Why?
20. Why are maggots difficult to use to calculate time of death?
21. What must be determined before you can use maggots to calculate time of death?
22. How many days old were the maggots found on the bodies in Scotland? When does this mean the bodies were left?
23. Who did police begin to believe the victims were in the ravine?
24. How were police able to obtain fingerprints in this case?
25. What primitive method of facial reconstruction was used in this case?
26. Approximately how many species of insects are there in the US?
27. Why are insect collections like the one at the Smithsonian important?
28. How many different insects were found on the radiator from Brothers’ rental car?
29. List the insects found in the radiator.
30. What insect broke open the Bakersfield murder case?
31. How did police overcome Brothers’ receipt alibi?
32. What two things did Ant Lions tell police about the case?
33. What did the True Bugs tell about the case?
34. What scientific breakthrough did Dr. Mearns have about insects?
35. What happens to fly larva in cold weather?
36. What other evidence allowed police to place Ruxton in Scotland on the day of the killings?
37. What evidence were police able to obtain once they got a search warrant for Ruxton’s house?
38. Describe the conclusion to the Ruxton case.
39. What insect proved that Brothers drove to California?
40. Describe the conclusion of the Brothers case.
41. Why do police believe Brothers killed his family?
42. Describe how forensic entomology has evolved over time.
43. What is field of entomotoxicology? Why is this useful?