This project looked to examine how different environmental aspects affected the rate of decomposition of remains (bone and flesh). This specific portion of the project focused on the entomology of the Western Illinois region and how the insects would contribute to the degradation of the remains. Previous research has been done on large scale comparing results from a multitude of different climates and environments; this project focused on comparing different micro-environments within the Midwestern climates rather than the typical broad state to state level.

To conduct this experiment, remains were left in three different micro-environments, one being near a creek bed, the second in a pine forest with a pond, and the third which was in an urban environment in town. To simulate the remains the experimenters placed beef ribs and cow leg bones at each site, both buried and on the surface, fastened to a tree. Sticky traps were set up at the sites in order to collect insects within the areas of the site, one placed near the remains and one away to establish a base line comparison. Samples were collected over a six week period with a table being formulated documenting the taxa of collected insects after the six weeks. The documentation of the insects continues for the meat that was left out (The buried samples). The current collection of insects are now serving as a reference and starting point for further forensic entomology research.