Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey
In search of exotic pests

Florida has many interesting native insects, as well as many pest insects that come from other lands and can harm the natural environment. These exotic pests include such longtime and well-known insects as the imported fire ant, the Diaprepes root weevil, and the Caribbean fruit fly. Other exotic pests, like the Asian longhorned beetle, may someday arrive in the Sunshine State. To better find such unwelcome intruders, the state and federal governments formed the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS). CAPS reinforces existing pest survey programs and will help give early warnings of new pests – helping to lessen the potential negative impact to Florida’s environment.
This is a honeybee. Its head and body are black. Its tail is yellow and black. Here, it is approaching a white orange blossom with green leaves.

This is the Asian citrus psyllid, an insect very much like a tiny cicada. It is cream colored with brown markings. This psyllid is a foreign pest that now lives in Florida. It carries a bad disease that kills citrus trees.
The annual cicada spends a year underground, feeding on tree roots, before emerging as an adult. It is pale cream, with brown and green markings.

The io moth is a very beautiful bright yellow all over except for the back wings, which are red along the inside edge with a big black eye-spot and black lines. Its caterpillar is bright green with a red and white stripe along each side and is covered with stinging spines.
This is an immature leaf-footed plant bug. It is bright orange and brown. The adult would have wings covering the abdomen.

This is a tiger beetle. It is called that because it is just like a tiny tiger, with big jaws and a big appetite. All other insects better look out!
This is the eyed elater. It is black with white spots. The eye spots are black, ringed with white. It is a voracious predator of wood-eating beetle larvae.

The hickory horned devil is a giant, scary-looking caterpillar, but it is all show. It cannot sting or bite. It is very colorful—white, brown, black and red.
This is a praying mantis. It is green and brown so that it will blend in with the leaves, and other insects won’t see it as it stalks them.

This tree-hopper is pretending to be a thorn. That way it can avoid becoming somebody’s lunch. Who would eat a thorn? It is green with orange dots.
The zebra longwing butterfly is black with yellow bands and spots. The little spots at the base of the wing are red. As a caterpillar it feeds on passion vine.

This is the Polyphemus moth. It is shades of grey and brown with blue and yellow eye spots. Its caterpillar feeds on the leaves of hardwood trees.