THE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES
– PHILADELPHIA –

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Giant Bugs – Dead and Alive – Are Featured in Fall Exhibit

Bugs… Outside the Box opens October 2011

PHILADELPHIA (June 27, 2011) — Giant, exquisitely detailed insect sculptures from Italy will make their debut in a new exhibit this fall at the Academy of Natural Sciences, highlighting the beauty and complexity of the often maligned mini-beasts of nature.

A rarely-seen long-arm beetle nearly 10 feet tall. A colorful butterfly with a five-foot wingspan. A heavily armored stag beetle with jaws as big as a man's leg. These amazing creatures and others are featured in *Bugs… Outside the Box*, an artsy look at the biological architecture of insects, the most diverse group of organisms on earth. The exhibit opens Oct. 22 and closes Jan. 16, 2012.

Created by Lorenzo Possenti of Pisa, Italy, the hand-crafted, scientifically accurate – except for their size – bugs are meant to challenge the perception of beauty and to celebrate the art of science. A variety of live insects from the Academy's Live Animal Center will be on display, as well as specimens from the Academy's world-renowned entomology collection. Interactive activities, including touchable body parts made with the same materials as the sculptures, offer more opportunities for discovery. Academy scientists will be on hand periodically to demonstrate the curatorial work that they do in the lab and to answer questions from visitors.

"Insects are fantastically constructed, but most people never get to see and appreciate this unless they are looking through a microscope," said Jon Gelhaus, curator of entomology at the Academy. "With this exhibit, the sculptures are up to 200 times larger than life, allowing visitors to see every beautiful detail and gain a greater appreciation for this wonderful group of organisms."

Bugs... Outside the Box was created by Outhouse Exhibit Services, Inc.

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Founded in 1812, the Academy of Natural Sciences is America's oldest natural history museum and a world leader in biodiversity and environmental research. For nearly 200 years, the Academy has carried out its mission to encourage and cultivate the sciences, exploring the remarkable diversity of our natural world and sharing these discoveries with the public through innovative exhibits, publications, and educational programming.

HOURS: Monday–Friday, 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Saturday–Sunday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. ADMISSION: $12 adults; $10 children 3-12, seniors, college students, and military personnel; free for members and children under 3. $2 fee for Butterflies!