

HOW AND WHO YOU CAN MAIL KISSING BUGS TO

People generally place the bug in a zippered plastic sandwich bag and then in a bubble wrap mailer or a small box to submit. Specimens mailed in plain, flat envelopes do not arrive in a condition that allows for testing. Please include a little paper with each bug (or write with sharpie marker directly on the bag) with your name, the date found, location found (GPS coordinates are the best! (see instructions below) But we can also work with address or zipcode), county name, specific location (on the ground, hiding in a crack, near a light, etc), whether the bug was alive or dead, and time of day.

As you may be aware, the parasite that can cause Chagas disease is spread by the infective feces of these bugs, so do not come in direct contact with them or areas they may have contaminated. I generally turn the bag inside out and use it as a barrier when grabbing the bug.

Bagged bugs can be stored in the freezer. This will preserve the DNA and also serve the purpose of killing the bugs, and it is safest to mail once dead. **DO NOT SEND LIVE BUGS.** We will identify these bugs and test for infection with the Chagas parasite. This is for research purposes, and the results may not be available for several months.

We are not a diagnostic lab, and although we test most of the bugs we receive, we do not test every single bug we receive at this time (some bugs are reserved for future projects). If you are interested in the result of your bug, you should email us approximately two-three months after submission to inquire about the result. Every bug (whether tested at this time or not) provides very valuable information about kissing bug distribution and behavior. Your bug submission will aid in answering many important questions about kissing bugs.

Address, if mailing (USPS):

Texas A&M University
Veterinary Integrative Biosciences Department
Sarah Hamer
668 Raymond Stotzer Pkwy
VIDI 126, Bldg #1813
4458 TAMU
College Station, TX 77843-4458

If shipping (UPS, FedEx, etc), please change two lines of the above address to the following:
664 Raymond Stotzer Pkwy
VICI 126, Bldg #1814

For more about our research and to download two informational pamphlets, please visit:

<http://kissingbug.tamu.edu>

Here is some information about control: <http://citybugs.tamu.edu/factsheets/biting-stinging/others/ent-3008/>

For questions about human or animal health and Chagas disease, please contact your physician or your pet's veterinarian. For additional information, some states can offer more information through their state health departments. In Texas in particular, your Regional Zoonosis Control Officer can be a source of information: <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/idcu/health/zoonosis/contact/>

Please let us know if you have any more questions and/or when you ship the bug.

Instructions for GPS coordinates: If you are able to find the location on GoogleMaps (www.maps.google.com), you can zoom-in (a lot! to get the best resolution), then right-click on the location and select "What's here?". Then, two numbers should show up in a little pop-up at the bottom of the map. The two numbers are the numbers I need for my map, if you can please include them in the package with the bug information. These numbers allow me to put all the locations from across the state into a modeling program that can help us determine if there are any particular landscape characteristics (forests, fields, temperature, rain) that lead to lots of bugs in some areas. If you are willing to send your numbers, we'd really appreciate it! The location of the bug will only be kept in our database, and not shared with anyone else.

Thanks in part to citizen observations, we have published several peer-reviewed articles about kissing bugs and Chagas disease in Texas: <http://kissingbug.tamu.edu/Publications/>