

# WOWBugs™

## A CAROLINA™ CareSheet

### Immediate Care and Handling

As soon as your shipment arrives, open the container and inspect the WOWBugs™. We shipped your culture while the insects were in the pupal stage; some adults may have emerged while in transit. If the majority of the WOWBugs™ are still in the pupal stage, simply wait several days and adults will emerge. There is no need to feed the adults.

Maintain the bugs at temperatures of 22 to 30° C (72 to 86° F), and the entire WOWBug™ life cycle (egg, larva, pupa, adult) will take 18 to 25 days. While in the pupal stage, these bugs do not move or eat. WOWBugs™ have never been observed feeding during the adult stage, although some evidence suggests that males cannibalize one another.

For long-term storage, refrigerate your WOWBugs™ during the prepupal stage. This most closely mimics the stage at which they spend the winter outdoors. Should it be necessary to refrigerate adults, keep them cold for as short a time as possible, and store them in your refrigerator's butter compartment where the temperature is slightly warmer. Don't be alarmed if they don't move right away when you take them out. It may take up to an hour for them to behave normally.

### Culturing

For culturing, we recommend our WOWBugs™ Culture Kit (item #144574).

### FAQ's

*What are the dark, pill-like things that I received?*

These are puparia—cases that enclose fly pupae. After the WOWBug™ larvae grow to full size, they stop feeding and become pupae themselves. They emerge as tiny wasps. The adult wasps should begin emerging about the time you receive your shipment.

*I see the fly puparia, but I don't have any WOWBugs™. What's wrong?*

We try to ship so that the WOWBugs™ are emerging as adults when you receive your order, but this is dependent on temperature. If they are exposed to temperatures below 22° C during shipment, this will slow their development. Give them a few days to catch up and begin emerging.

*I received my WOWBugs™, but there are just a few of them and they are all dead.*

The dead WOWBugs™ are the female parents who laid their eggs in the fly puparia. They are left in the culture/viewing chamber where they live out their normal lifespan. Their offspring should begin emerging in a few days.

*I see lots of WOWBugs™, but they are just lying around on the bottom of the box. Are they dead?*

Sometimes just before the WOWBugs™ emerge from the pupa stage, they spill out of the fly puparia in large numbers, and this is what you're seeing. Give them a few days to complete the transformation into active adults.

*Will adult flies emerge from the puparia?*

This is unlikely. The fly pupae have been so heavily parasitized by WOWBugs™ larvae that they probably will be unable to emerge. If they do, you can kill them in the freezer.

**Problems?** We hope not, but if so contact us. We want you to have a good experience.

**Orders and replacements:** 800.334.5551 then select Customer Service

**Technical Support and Questions:** [caresheets@carolina.com](mailto:caresheets@carolina.com)



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