

Bio-Visie Natuureducatieve Projecten or Biovision Nature Educational Projects¹

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Our group of volunteers in The Netherlands is developing nature educational projects under the name *Bio-Visie Natuureducatieve Projecten*. We produce lessons series, educational boxes and exhibitions on various nature issues. We believe that our projects have to be accessible for everyone, not only for rich schools and museums. Our work is not commercial and fosters the values of nature conservation and environmental education. I am a school teacher who initiates and coordinates *Bio-Visie Natuureducatieve Projecten*. I received a license from the Dutch government to possess and use protected dead and stuffed animals for this purpose which I consider an approval for our educational work.

Bio-Visie pays attention to endangered species. At this time, the group is working on an exhibit about the stag beetle, *Lucanus cervus cervus* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Figure 1) which is struggling to survive in The Netherlands. We consider it a very good idea to make this beautiful beetle known among the general public of The Netherlands and surrounding countries as well. To embed *L. cervus cervus* in the big picture it is necessary to show biodiversity. Therefore, different beetles and other insects as well as non-arthropods of many families worldwide are needed. To show gender differences, at least one male and one female of each species are desirable.



Figure 1. *Lucanus cervus cervus* (Linnaeus, 1758). These specimens were collected after they died in nature and we mounted them for this project.

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Because our educational work is labor intensive (Figure 2) and does not generate sufficient income, we depend on kind people and institutions willing to help us.



Figure 2. Pinning insects professionally is a labor-intensive job. To have insects look beautifully prepared, lots of pins have to brace the legs until they dry into the desired position that are more pleasant to see (Figure 1).

Three years ago we began searching the Internet for scientists and institutions willing to help. Many of scientists have been supporting this wonderful project by sending specimens, but still many insects of all insect orders are needed. If your heart compels and your circumstances allow, please consider helping us. Please, feel free to contact our enthusiastic educational group of volunteers at biovisie@icloud.com.