Insects as unidentified flying objects

Philip S. Callahan and R. W. Mankin

Abstract

Five species of insects were subjected to a large electric field. Each of the insects stimulated in this manner emitted visible glows of various colors and blacklight (uv). It is postulated that the Uintah Basin, Utah, nocturnal UFO display (1965–1968) was partially due to mass swarms of spruce budworms, *Choristoneura fumiferana* (Clemens), stimulated to emit this type of St. Elmo's fire by flying into high electric fields caused by thunderheads and high density particulate matter in the air. There was excellent time and spatial correlation between the 1965–1968 UFO nocturnal sightings and spruce budworm infestation. It is suggested that a correlation of nocturnal UFO sightings throughout the U.S. and Canada with spruce budworm infestations might give some insight into nocturnal insect flight patterns.

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Unidentified flying object (UFO), also called flying saucer, any aerial object or optical phenomenon not readily identifiable to the observer. UFOs became a major subject of interest following the development of rocketry after World War II and were thought by some researchers to be intelligent extraterrestrial life visiting Earth. Read More on This Topic. Unidentified Flying Objects: What We Know. Everything we know (and only what we know) about the phenomenon of UFOs. History. Flying saucers and Project Blue Book. Autographed front cover of Kenneth Arnold’s The Flying Saucer as I Saw It (1950). Sightings of unidentified aerial phenomena increased, and in 1948 the U.S. Air Force began an investigation of these reports called Project Sign. The initial opinion of View. Show abstract. Insects as unidentified flying objects - comment. Article. Jan 1979. Measurements of the electric field on the surface of aircraft flying through all types of weather and clouds are summarized. The measured electric field inside a thunderstorm just prior to a lightning strike at 12,900 feet was 3400 volts/cm. The average maximum field for 9 different thunderclouds was 1300 volts/cm. Slide 1Unidentified Flying ObjectsAre they real?By An unidentified flying object, or UFO, in its most general definition, is any apparent anomaly in the sky (or near or on the ground, but observed hovering, landing, or departing into the sky) that is not readily identifiable as any known object or phenomenon by visual observation and/or use of associated instrumentation such as radar. These anomalies were referred to popularly as “flying saucers” or “flying saucers and Project Blue Book. Autographed front cover of Kenneth Arnold’s The Flying Saucer as I Saw It (1950). Sightings of unidentified aerial phenomena increased, and in 1948 the U.S. Air Force began an investigation of these reports called Project Sign. The initial opinion of View. Show abstract. Insects as unidentified flying objects - comment. Article. Jan 1979. Measurements of the electric field on the surface of aircraft flying through all types of weather and clouds are summarized. The measured electric field inside a thunderstorm just prior to a lightning strike at 12,900 feet was 3400 volts/cm. The average maximum field for 9 different thunderclouds was 1300 volts/cm. Slide 1Unidentified Flying ObjectsAre they real?By An unidentified flying object, or UFO, in its most general definition, is any apparent anomaly in the sky (or near or on the ground, but observed hovering, landing, or departing into the sky) that is not readily identifiable as any known object or phenomenon by visual observation and/or use of associated instrumentation such as radar. These anomalies were referred to popularly as “flying saucers” or “flying