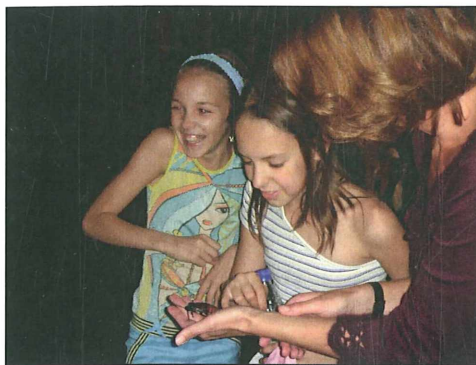


A new facilitator project at the Museum of Natural History in Vienna

In the last years the Museum of Natural History launched a new exhibition project. On the base of facilitators new and interesting topics are presented to the public. The project started with the presentation of Hissing Cockroaches (*Gromphadorhina portentosa*) from Madagascar. The facilitator project is an addition to the regular guided tours. The cockroaches are ideal objects for presentation. Due to their body size the anatomical features of insects can be interpreted for the guests in an almost perfect way. The hissing noises are impressive and add a creepy effect to the lecture. Cockroaches are bred in reasonable numbers. So it is possible to change the “actors” at regular intervals. This is necessary to avoid stress for the cockroaches by being “caressed” too much. The events are characterized by the spontaneous effects and a remarkable pedagogic impact due to the practical background of the presentation. At the moment facilitator projects are carried out by Susanne Randolph (Keeper of the Insecta Varia Collection) and Dominique Zimmermann (Keeper of the Hymenoptera Collection).



Facilitator project at the Museum of Natural History in Vienna. **Top left:** Dominique Zimmermann (Keeper of Hymenoptera Collection) with “hissing friend”.- **Top right:** Martin Lödl (Head of Entomology Department) with school class.- **Left:** Susanne Randolph (Keeper of Insecta Varia Collection) with thrilled girls from Russia.- **Right:** Hissing Cockroach (*Gromphadorhina portentosa*) from Madagascar.

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