

## *Grylloblatta* – The Official Bigfoot Bug

The little guy seen here (about 1.2 inches long) was found in Ape Cave, Mount St. Helens area, Washington, in the 1960s. It was declared a new species (*Grylloblatta*) and put on display in the National Museum, Washington, DC. The only others of the species live in Asia. With no eyes to speak of and no wings, we have to wonder how it found its way to that lonely spot. I know it's a stretch, but is it feasible that a few were carried here by sasquatch, which we think also wandered over from Asia? The cave itself is directly associated with sasquatch sightings.

The official description of the “adventurous bug” as provided to me by Dr. Jeff Meldrum is as follows:

### **Order: *Grylloblattodea***

Wingless insect, with eyes reduced or absent. Antennae moderately long and filamentous. Mouth parts for biting. All legs more or less similar to one another, with 5-segmented tarsi. Abdomen with a pair of long, 8-jointed cerci, and well developed ovipositor in the female. Simple metamorphosis. This small Order includes only six described species confined to North America and Asia. While showing some specialization, such as loss of eyes and wings, they appear to be living remnants of the stock from which both the Orthoptera (crickets and grasshoppers) and Dictyoptera (cockroaches and mantids) were derived.

More information on the insect has found its way to the Internet since I wrote this 11 years ago—for those who wish to do more research.

Not a lot of people are “big on bugs,” but like all other organisms there are rare, strange and intriguing species; probably more difficult to find than a sasquatch.

Whatever the case, I don't think this guy walked here; he definitely hitched a ride. The photo of Ape Cave on the right shows his home away from home since whatever time he chose to emigrate to the New World.

