

Small Wonder The spike of the stink ant ranks as a prehistoric upgrade.



Jurassic Tech

Come for the weird science. Stay for the black tea.

Visiting the Museum of Jurassic Technology in Culver City, California, feels a lot like exploring your grandparents' attic—that is, if one of your grandparents was Indiana Jones. You might encounter the stink ant of the Cameroon, known for its audible cry and the spike that grows out of its head. Or perhaps you'll hear the tale of the Deprong Mori, a bat rumored to possess the ability to fly through solid objects.

The trick is finding it. The building looks more like an old tenement than a traditional museum. The front door opens into a tiny gift shop, where you pay the suggested admission price of \$5 then wind your way through a dark and musty maze of small rooms and exhibits. Displays on the west side of the building highlight the works of turn-of-the-century scientists and include the stink ant and Deprong Mori exhibits. The east

wing contains the works of accomplished concert violinist Hagop Sandaldjian, who created tiny figurines in the eyes of needles. (The works are displayed with magnifying glasses.)

Tell the Bees: Belief, Knowledge, and Hyper-symbolic Cognition feels just as strangely engrossing. The exhibit of old folk remedies makes one grateful for advances in modern medicine. Had you stammered a century ago, so they say, your parents would have made you eat a whole mouse, fur and all. On toast.

Upstairs you can take a break from the weirdness in the Tula Tea Room with a cup of Georgian Black Tea. It's the perfect environment to sit, ponder the meaning of museums, innovation, and reality, and marvel at a bit of post-Jurassic technology: the tea bag. Hmm. Has anyone ever created tiny figurines out of these? mjt.org