



The Study of Spiders

Week 1: Introduction and Overview

Inserting the Specimen

Angela: Okay, so now we have our dry conductive sample and I'm going to put it inside the microscope. This particular scanning electron microscope has an airlock system so that we don't ever have to introduce air into the column and into the specimen chamber because we want to keep that as clean as possible and introduce as few contaminants as possible into the chamber.

So we use this little pre-pump chamber, here. The samples just sit on this stage and I put them on the end of this specimen-exchange rod, close the chamber, and now I'm pumping this part of the microscope out. This takes maybe 30 seconds for the vacuum to get good enough so that I can open this valve that separates the specimen-exchange chamber from the actual viewing chamber.