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MAKING AN INSECT COLLECTION

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Insects are small invertebrate (lacking a backbone) animals. They have all the body processes of the higher animals (vertebrates) and are very interesting to study. Insects are classified according to the following series of categories. An example of the classification of the housefly is given below.

Kingdom	Animal
Class	Insecta
Order	Diptera
Family	Muscidae
Genus	Musca
Species	domestica
Describer	Linnaeus
Common name	house fly

In some widely varying orders, there may be a classification of suborder. Some families may have a classification category of superfamily and subfamily.

Insects make up the majority of the animal kingdom. In Arkansas alone there are probably 20,000 different kinds of insects. It is important for anyone who wants to learn about the world around him to spend a considerable part of his time learning about insects. The best way to begin is by making a collection.

Many insects are so distinctive that they are easily recognized at a distance. There are many others, however, which cannot be distinguished from their near relatives unless specimens of both are available together for comparison. This is the great value of a collection. You will find many of the insects which you lump together as "May beetles," "houseflies" or "grasshoppers" are actually a mixture of many species, each with a particular way of life. You will also find that every tiny flying insect is not a "gnat." You will be amazed at the variety of insects you can find on your own farm, in your town or even in your own back yard.

Equipment for Collecting Insects

A small amount of inexpensive equipment is necessary for collecting and mounting insects.

The following things should be obtained by the beginner:

- 2. Killing jar
- 3. Insect pins
- Spreading board
 Storage boxes

4. Pinning block

and display boxes

How to Make Your Net

To help in collecting insects, a sweep net is useful. It is especially useful in sweeping for small insects. Sweep nets may be purchased or made at home. A plan for making a sweep net is as follows:

Equipment:

- 1. Small wooden handle, about 3 feet long (broom handle).
- 2. Smooth stiff wire 5 feet long (telephone wire).
- 3. A piece of cloth 3 x 5 feet (muslin or mosquito netting).
- 4. Piece of fine wire to wrap wire hoop ends to handle.



On one end of the handle, cut two grooves lengthwise on opposite sides the depth and the thickness of the wire. Make one groove 2 1/2 inches long and the other 3 1/2 inches long. Drill a small hole into the handle at the end of each groove. Bend the wire to form a hoop. Cut the cloth a triangular shape with the top circled. Hem the top and sew the sides together. Attach to the wire circle. Wire the hoop to the handle.

How to Make Your Own Killing Jar

Any jar or large-mouthed bottle with a tight lid makes a good killing bottle. Chips of rubber, sponge, celotex, cotton or similar absorbent material should be placed in the bottom of the jar. A piece of corrugated cardboard should be cut the size of the bottom of the jar and placed over the chips to keep them in place. The bottle should be charged as needed with killing agent. Many of the volatile chemicals are effective.



Making a Pinning Block

A pinning block is used to get the insect and labels at the same height on each pin. A pinning block may be made from a single piece of wood 1 inch square and 4 inches long or by gluing several 1/4-inch by 1-inch pieces together to form 1-inch square steps, 1/4 inch, 1/2 inch, 3/4 inch and 1 inch thick. Small holes just large enough for the head of the insect pin to slip through are bored through the center of each step.



Making a Spreading Board

To spread the wings of moths and butterflies until they dry, a spreading board is needed. Several sizes of spreading boards are used by the professional. For most insects, a good spreading board can be made. The bill of materials for a spreading board is:

1. Two pieces 5 1/2 inches long and 1 inch square for the ends.

- Two pieces 1/2 inch x 2 1/2 inches x 16 inches for the top pieces. These should be planed so that one side of each is sloped down to 3/8 inch thick.
- One strip of balsa wood, styrofoam, cork or other soft material 1/2 inch x 1 inch x 14 inches for the pinning strip in the bottom of the slot.
- 4. A pinning board may be made from styrofoam by cutting a slot. The moth body is placed in the slots and wings spread.

Boxes

Cigar boxes or similar type boxes with corrugated board placed in the bottoms make good collecting and storage boxes. Exhibit or display boxes can be purchased or made. Arkansas collections should be exhibited or displayed in a box 18 inches x 24 inches x 2 5/8 inches with a plexiglas top.

Bill of Materials

1 piece masonite 18" x 24" 2 side pieces 1" x 2 5/8" x 24" – grooved 1 end piece 1" x 2 5/8" x 16 1/2" – grooved 1 end piece 1" x 2 1/4" x 16 1/2" 1 end piece 1" x 3/8" x 16 1/2" – grooved 1 piece styrofoam or celotex, 1/2" x 16 1/2" x 22 5/8" 10 screws 10 flat head box nails 1 piece plexiglas 17" x 23 1/2"

The two side pieces and one end piece are grooved 1/8" wide and 1/4" deep 1/4" down from inside the top. The end piece 1" x 3/8" x 16 1/2" has a groove on one side 1/8" x 1/4" to fit over plexiglas to hold it in place.



Where to Collect Insects

Insects may be collected at any time during the year. There is at least one species or kind of insect that feeds or lives on every kind of plant, mammal and bird. Some plants support many different kinds of insects. The more places insects are collected, the larger and more varied the collection is likely to be. The following insect habitats can be used as a guide to making a collection:

- 1. **Pastures:** grasshoppers, butterflies, tree crickets, walkingsticks, leafhoppers, beetles, crane flies, wasps.
- 2. **Cultivated plants:** butterflies, beetles, squash bugs, stink bugs and many other injurious insects.
- 3. Woodlands:
 - A. Foliage of trees and shrubs: beetles, wasps, praying mantis, walkingstick.
 - B. Decayed logs and stumps: beetles, termites, ants.
 - C. Loose bark of logs and stumps: beetles, wasps, cockroaches, springtails.
 - D. Sap of freshly cut trees: moths, wasps, beetles.
 - E. Under damp leaves: springtails, beetles, leafhoppers, beetles.
 - F. Flowers: butterflies, bumble bees, wasps, beetles.

4. Buildings:

- A. Newspapers: bristletails, booklice.
- B. Flooring: termites, powderpost beetles.
- C. Basement: cockroaches.
- D. Clothes closets: bristletails, clothes moths.
- 5. **Domestic and wild mammals and birds:** biting lice, sucking lice, fleas, horse flies, horn flies, bot flies.

6. Farm lot:

- A. Manure: beetles, flies.
- B. Stored grain: moths, caterpillars, beetles, booklice.
- C. Shocks of grain: crickets, beetles.
- D. Straw piles: earwigs, crickets, beetles.

7. Water:

- A. Ponds, lakes, streams: water striders, whirligig beetles, water scorpions, giant water bugs, springtails, water boatmen, back swimmers, dobsonflies, stoneflies, mayflies, dragonflies, beetles.
- B. Mud, sandbars, gravel or clay banks: toad bugs, pygmy grasshoppers, mole crickets, tiger beetles.
- C. Weeds and leafy branches near water: damselflies, dragonflies, beetles,

leafhoppers, flies, stoneflies, mayflies, caddisflies.

8. Weeds and flowers along roadside: grasshoppers, stink bugs, beetles, scorpion flies, treehoppers, tree crickets, wasps, bees, butterflies, blister beetles.

9. Special places:

- A. Boards and stones: ants, termites, beetles, crickets, springtails.
- B. Lights at night: moths, beetles, lacewings, praying mantis, katydids, jarflies, dobsonflies, assassin bugs, giant water bugs, caddisflies, mayflies, stoneflies.
- C. Greenhouses: plant lice, thrips, earwigs.
- D. Dead or decaying bodies of animals: rove beetles and other scavengers.

How to Mount and Preserve Your Collection

A display collection should contain only adult insects. All insects must be pinned or glued to small card triangles.

Insects should be mounted on regular insect pins, not common pins. Any insect too small to pin through the body should be glued to a card point made by cutting a triangle 3/8-inch and 1/8-inch wide at the base from a file card or similar material. The pin should be inserted at the base of the triangle.



All insects should be pinned so that the upper surface on the insect is 1/2-inch below the head of the pin. This is done by inserting the pin head first through the 1/2-inch section of the pinning block after the insect has been pinned.

Insects that are large enough should be pinned directly through the body, usually just off center to the right. Different kinds of insects have different locations on the body where pins should be inserted. The following rules should be followed:

1. Bees, wasps, flies,

the middle line.

2. Stink bugs – Pin

etc. – Pin through the

bases of the fore wings

and just to the right of

through the scutellum,

which is the triangular area between the

bases of the wings.

3. Grasshoppers, crickets,

etc. – Pin through the

prothorax or "saddle" just to the right of the

center line.

thorax between the













5. Butterflies, moths, dragonflies, etc. – Pin through the center of the thorax between the bases of the fore wings.

The wings of moths and butterflies should be spread on a spreading board.



How to Relax Dry Insects

All insects should be pinned while fresh if at all possible. At times specimens may dry out before they can be pinned. Dry specimens may be relaxed by putting them into a relaxing chamber for one or two days. A relaxing chamber can be made from a large jar with a wide mouth and a tight-fitting lid. Place 2 inches of clean sand in the bottom of the jar and saturate it with water to which two to three drops of carbolic acid have been added to control mold. Place insects in an open container on top of the wet sand and put the lid on the chamber airtight. Pin insects just as soon as they are soft. Specimens left too long in the relaxing chamber will be ruined.

How to Label Insects

Insects should all be labeled with two labels 1/2 inch wide and 3/4 inch long made from file cards. The location, date and the name of the collector should be printed on the top label and the common name, where possible, should be printed on the lower label.

Labels should be placed at uniform heights. Use the different sections of the pinning block to obtain the proper height. Labels should be placed parallel to the length of large insects, so that they are read from the left side with insect facing away. Labels on point-mounted insects should be parallel with points and read from the bottom.



Arranging in the Box

A piece of blank paper should be fitted in the bottom of the box. Insects are then arranged in columns in horizontal rows with not more than four specimens of each kind to a row. Each Order is separated by a label in the column at the top of the first row of insects in that particular Order. The Order name should be printed or typed on a piece of plain white paper 1/2 inch wide by 2 inches in length and pinned to the bottom of the box with two pins.

Identifying the Insects

Twenty-five of the 31 total insect Orders can easily be collected in Arkansas. At least one species of these Orders is commonly present in all localities. Keys and reference material should be used to properly identify insects to Order.

What Makes a Good Collection

A useful collection consists of many different species of insects, neatly mounted, labeled and arranged in good display boxes. Uniformity of labeling, mounting and arranging is of utmost importance in making an attractive collection.

Insect collections will be judged according to the following score card:

1.	Different Orders correctly identified	ed.	25 points
2.	Pinning and spreading technique.		25 points
	a. Proper wing spreading.b. Pins inserted properly.c. Uniform height on pins.d. Insects level and straight.e. Condition of specimens.	5 points 5 points 5 points 5 points 5 points	
3.	Identification and labeling.		25 points
	a. Labels neat and accurate.b. Labels uniform height on pins.c. Labels not twisted on pins.d. Insects assigned correct Order.e. Accuracy of common names.	5 points 5 points 5 points 5 points 5 points	
4.	General appearance of collection.		25 points
	a. Variety of insects.b. No species duplication.	5 points 5 points	

c. Grouping and spacing. 5 points d. Arrangement and background. 5 points e. Educational features added. 5 points

Suggestions for Making a Good Collection

- 1. Use undamaged specimens.
- 2. Spread the wings of Lepidoptera.
- 3. Place all insects the same height on the pins.
- 4. Use only regular insect pins.
- 5. Use uniform labels placed the same height on pins and kept straight.
- 6. Group each Order in columns under the Order label and arrange the specimens in neat, straight rows.
- 7. Varnished and waxed display cases are more attractive.
- 8. Use white or light color background in the bottom of the box to show insect specimens to best advantage.

Protection of Collection From Insects

Insect collections are often destroyed by other insects which feed on dry insects. Collections may be protected by using moth balls placed in the box. The box should be kept tightly closed.

Order: Thysanura

Wings – None

Mouthparts - Chewing

Metamorphosis - None



Added Note – Silver-colored insects with long antennae and two or three long antennae-like appendages at the end of the abdomen. The silverfish feed on rayons, starched clothes, bookbindings and other materials having starch or glue. Can be found in feed or flour mills where starchy foods are handled or in sinks and bathtubs of homes.

Order: Microcoryphia

(Jumping Bristletails)

Wings - None

Mouthparts – Chewing

Metamorphosis - None

Added Note – Jumping bristletails are wingless insects similar to silverfish. They jump when disturbed and are usually found in grassy or wooded areas under leaves, bark or dead wood.

Order: Collembola (Springtails)

Wings – None

Mouthparts - Chewing

Metamorphosis - None

Added Note – Very small insects less than 1/5 inch long. Flip themselves into the air by means of a spring-like part under the abdomen. Found in damp places, such as under decaying vegetation, stones and boards.

Order: Ephemeroptera

(Mayflies)

Wings – Two pairs. First pair much larger than second pair. Held vertically when at rest.

Mouthparts - None

Metamorphosis – Incomplete



Added Note – Found near water and are attracted to lights. Have two or three long antennaelike appendages at the end of the abdomen.

Order: Odonata

(Dragonflies, Damselflies)

Wings – Two pair

Mouthparts - Chewing

Metamorphosis – Incomplete

Added Notes – Two pairs wings same thickness with 12 or more cross veins; both pairs wings same length. Tarsus (foot) with less than five segments.



The different damselflies are known by the family names; found about ponds and streams; adult feeds on soft-bodied insects; nymph is fish food.



Several different dragonflies exist in Arkansas. Some common names are gray darners, cordulegasters, club-tailed, common darners. Distinguished by large size and rapid flight; lives about fresh water, feeds on other insects.

Order: Orthoptera

(Grasshoppers, Crickets)

Wings – Two pairs (camel crickets are wingless) Top pair – Leathery Bottom pair – Membranous and folded under top pair

Mouthparts - Chewing

Metamorphosis – Gradual

Camel Cricket



Red-legged Grasshopper





Commonly seen hopping or flying in grassy areas; voracious plant feeder, found worldwide. Several species (600 in North America) including differential, red-legged, lesser migratory, clearwinged and several others of lesser abundance.



Several species; delicate, slender, greenish; lives in weeds, trees, bushes; punctures twigs and branches to deposit eggs.



Adult female; pretty, light green, called "meadow grasshopper"; general feeder. Several species including cone-nosed and meadow grasshopper.



Wingless long-horned 'hopper; high-arched back like camel; eats plants in dark, moist places.

Order Orthoptera

length 4/5 inch



Several species; general foliage feeder; summer singer of "Katy did, Katy didn't."



Several species. Covered with fine, brown, velvety hairs; burrows, nests in soil near water; feeds on plant roots.

Order: Mantodea

(Preying Mantids)

Wings – Two pair

Mouthparts - Chewing

Metamorphosis – Gradual



Added Note – Preying mantids have front legs with teeth-like structures for holding prey. The head is quite moveable and mantid can look over its shoulder. Preying mantids catch and feed upon other insects.

Order: Phasmida

(Walkingsticks)

Wings - None

Mouthparts - Chewing

Metamorphosis – Gradual



Added Note – The body is long and sticklike and the wings are usually absent or very reduced. The walkingsticks are slow moving, herbivorous insects that are usually found on trees or shrubs. They are very similar in appearance to a twig. walkingsticks are able to emit a foul-smelling substance.

Order: Blattaria

(Cockroaches)



Metamorphosis - Gradual

Added Note – Cockroaches have flat bodies and tend to be oval shaped. They are fast runners and usually move about during the night.

Order: Isoptera

(Termites)

Wings – Two pairs of the same length (workers are wingless)

Mouthparts - Chewing

Metamorphosis – Gradual





Termite Order Isoptera length 1 1/4 inches

Added Note – Kings and queens may be collected while swarming, and workers may be found infesting wood. Look under wood on the ground.

Two pairs of wings same thickness and sturdiness; more than 12 cross veins with both pairs equal width and length and much longer than body; wings milky white in color.

Winged adult, second-generation caste, worker, soldier; live in social colonies; infest house timber.

Order: Dermaptera

(Earwigs)

Wings – Two pairs

Mouthparts - Chewing

Metamorphosis - Gradual

Added Note – Front pair of wings like those of beetles but very short, hind pair membranous. Have a pair of pincers on end



of abdomen. Found on plants, decayed matter and sometimes in houses.

Reddish-brown; foul odor; nests in decaying matter in greenhouses and buildings; feeds on organic material. About 20 species are reported in North America but all look very much alike.

Order: Neuroptera

(Dobsonflies, Lacewings, Antlions)

Wings - Two pairs, many fine net-like veins

Mouthparts – Chewing

Metamorphosis-Complete



Horned adult; larva, a fish food, called hellgrammite by anglers; eats other insects.



Added Note – Have long antennae. Found near streams, at lights or on trees and plants.



Added Note - Found near running streams.

Two pairs wings same thickness with 12 or more cross veins; second pair wings broader than first pair. Tarsus (foot) with less than five segments. Length 1/2 to 1 inch.

Several different species (about 300 in North America); vary in color and size. Adult probably eats nothing; immature stages found in aerated water, food for fish.



Graceful adult; larva, doodlebug, digs pit, partially buries itself in bottom waiting for ant victims.

Order: Plecoptera

(Stoneflies)

Wings – Two pairs

Mouthparts – Chewing

Metamorphosis-Incomplete

Order: Phthiraptera

(Chewing and Sucking Lice)

Wings – None

Mouthparts - Chewing and sucking

Metamorphosis - None

Added Note – Live on birds and to some extent on mammals. Feed on hair, feathers, scales and dried blood.



Cattlebiting Louse

Order: Thysanoptera

Wings – Two pairs or none

Mouthparts – Rasping, sucking

Metamorphosis - Gradual



Two pairs of wings, rod-shaped and fringed with very long hairs.

Added Note – A sucking louse. Head narrow and long. Claws pincer-like. Feed on animals.







Chicken Body Louse Order Mallophaga length 3/16 inch Light tan to almost black; found on chickens and other fowl; skin contact serious. sucking mouth parts; attack all plants. Several species (about 500 in North America) include flower thrips, gladiolus thrips, onion thrips and others.

Added Note – Very small insects, only 1/8 inch long or less. Feed on many plants.

Very active, minute insects with piercing,

Order: Psocoptera

(Booklice and Barklice)

Wings - Some wingless, some with two pairs

Mouthparts – Chewing

Metamorphosis - Gradual

Added Note - Found in old books and papers or on bark of trees or on damp stored grain.

Wingless; not external parasites of animals; mouthparts for chewing; no filaments or projections on tip of abdomen.

Minute, soft-bodied insects found in old books and damp, dark, unused rooms. Different species (about 150 in North America); vary in size.



length 1/16 inch



Damsel Bug Order Hemiptera length 1/5 inch

Predatory insects on caterpillars and other larvae.

Leaf-footed or Coreid Bug Order Hemiptera length 1/2 to 3/4 inch



Many species include leaf-footed plant bugs, squash bugs and others that resemble these very closely.



Toad Bug Order Hemiptera length 1/2 inch

Common on muddy stream banks; protective colors vary with soils; lives on insects.



Order Hemiptera length 1/5 inch

Attacks small grain, corn, soybeans, St. Augustine grass; sucks sap, wilts and kills plants; bad odor when mashed.

Order: Hemiptera

(True Bugs)

Wings – Two pairs. Front pair is half leathery and half membranous. Hind pair is membranous.

Mouthparts – Piercing, sucking

Metamorphosis - Gradual

Hemiptera (true bugs): Two pairs wings; front wing divided into two distinct sections – a thick one toward base and a thin one at tip. Sections are sharply divided and not just tapered. Piercing, sucking mouthparts arising at front-underside (anterior-ventral) part of head. Tarsus (foot) with two claws if insect is wingless.

Bed Bug Order Hemiptera length 3/16 inch



Feeds primarily on man at night; sometimes found on caged animals and birds; rests during day in cracks and dark areas.





Adult, comes to light; flies from pond to pond, living on insects, snails and small fish.



Negro Bug Order Hemiptera length 1/10 inch

Dark, beetle-like adult; injures celery, corn, wheat and other plants; deposits bad odor.



Stink Bug Order Hemiptera length 3/8 to 1/2 inch

Many species include harlequin bug, green stink bug, southern green stink bug, rice stink bug and brown stink bug.



Flower Bug Order Hemiptera length 1/6 to 1/5 inch

Several species include insidious flower bug, predaceous flower bug and others. Predators on eggs and young larvae of caterpillars.



Several species include wheel bug, masked hunter, bloodsucking cone nose and others. Mostly predaceous on other insects; few species are bloodsucking.



Lace Bug Order Hemiptera length 1/16 to 1/8 inch

Several species (about 100 in North America); include sycamore, egg plant and other lace bugs. Suck sap on undersides of leaves of shade trees and ornamental plants.



Adult lives concealed in shallow water; breathes by keeping long tube at water surface.



Water Boatman Order Hemiptera length 1 1/2 inches

Lives in ooze, feeds on minute animals at pond bottom; air bubbles surround swimming body and glisten like silver.



Plant Bug Order Hemiptera length 1/8 to 1/2 inch

Many species; includes tarnished plant bug, rapid plant bug, cotton fleahopper and others. Flattened bugs suck sap from plants, usually terminal growth or first buds. Ambush Bug Order Hemiptera length 1/2 inch



- Predatory bugs feed on other insects. Several different species but resemble each other closely.
- Added Note Most live on land but a few live in the water. Most feed on plant juices, but there are some which feed on animals and others which feed on other insects.

Order: Homoptera

(Aphids, Scales, Leafhoppers, Cicadas)

Wings – Two pairs or wingless

Mouthparts - Piercing, sucking

Metamorphosis - Gradual

Wingless or two pairs of wings, same thickness; piercing-sucking mouthparts arising at back underside (posterior-ventral) part of head.



Aphid Order Homoptera length 3/32 inch

Minute, soft-bodied, green, red or black insects; attack vegetation; suck plant juice, secrete honeydew. Many species (probably several hundred in Arkansas); include turnip, peach, wooly, greenbug, corn leaf, apple grain and many others.





Scale Order Homoptera length 1/12 to 1/2 inch

Disk-shaped specks on tree bark; decreases vigor, causes thin foliage. Many species (more than 2,000); include San Jose, scurfy, oystershell, euonymus, obscure, elm, cottony cushion scale, mealybug, lecanium and others.



Hopping insect resembles winged aphid; carries plant disorder more damaging than its feeding.



Order Homoptera length 1/25 inch



Cicada Order Homoptera length 1 1/4 inches

Shrill cry familiar in late summer; several species include periodical and annual cicada.

Snow-white adult and pale-green nymph cover many plants, suck sap, destroy vigor. Species include greenhouse, citrus and other whiteflies.



Phylloxera Order Homoptera length 1/24 inch

Complicated biology; injures roots and foliage with galls, causes tissue disintegration. Includes grape and pecan phylloxera.



Peculiar-shaped, light-green to multi-colored; adult slits bark, depositing eggs; nymph feeds on vegetation. Several species in Arkansas.



Spittlebug or Froghopper Order Homoptera



Ground Beetle Order Coleoptera length 1/4 to 1 inch

- Several different species; attack legumes, trees and shrubs; feeds in frothy mass of sap.
- Very large number of species (more than 2,500 in United States); with wide variation in color, size and shape. Very common everywhere; feed on other insects.





Several species are known; all are bright metallic colored; found in dry sandy fields and beaches. Predatory on other insects.

Leafhopper Order Homoptera length 1/8 to 3/8 inch



- Many species; vary in color; include potato
 - leafhopper, bean leafhopper and others. Sucks juices from plants, causes hopper burn; found on underside of leaves, transmits many of the plant virus diseases.

Order: Coleoptera

(Beetles)

- Wings Two pairs Front pair - Hard and shell-like Hind pair - Membranous
- Mouthparts Chewing
- Metamorphosis Complete
- Added Note Two pairs of wings; front wings hard and strong, forming a shell on the back and divided by thin line down the center; mouthparts for chewing.



Water Scavenger Beetle Order Coleoptera length 1 1/2 inch

Many species may be collected. Common in quiet pools; swims or crawls on plant life; feeds on decaying material in water.



Carrion Beetle Order Coleoptera length 1/2 to 1 1/2 inches

Several species in Arkansas; vary in size and color. Buries dead animals in which eggs are deposited; adult, larva feed on decaying animal matter.



Flatheaded Borer Order Coleoptera length 1/2 to 1 inch

Several species in Arkansas; wood boring insects; adult metallic colored; includes flatheaded apple tree borer.



Rove Beetles Attacking Cabbage Maggot Order Coleoptera length 1/4 to 1 inch

Several species (more than 1,000); black adults; feed on fly maggots; common about decaying animal or vegetable matter.



Click Beetle Order Coleoptera length 1/2 to 1 1/2 inches

Many species (more than 500 in North America); vary in size and color. Make clicking noise when placed on back; occur on flowers, under bark and on vegetation. Larvae are wireworms.



Dermestid Beetle Order Coleoptera length 3/16 to 1/3 inch

Several species in Arkansas; includes carpet beetles that feed on woolen material and larder beetles, a pest of meat and animal products.

Powderpost Beetle Order Coleoptera length 1/8 to 1/2 inch



Several different species (about eight); feed in wood and lumber. Adults are slender and leave holes in flooring and furniture when emerging.



Many species in this group; include Japanese

beetle, rose chafer and grape beetle. Most are

metallic colored and found feeding on plants.

Leaf Chafer Order Coleoptera length 1/4 to 1/2 inch



Darkling Beetle Order Coleoptera length 1/4 to 3 inches

The many species (about 1,400 in North America) are mostly plant feeders found cutting off seedlings at soil line; confused flour beetle is a grain pest.



May Beetle Order Coleoptera length 1/4 to 3/4 inch

Many different species (150 in the United States) of May beetles. To this group belong the light to dark brown beetles collecting around lights at night.





Whirligig Beetle Order Coleoptera length 3/4 inch

Groups spin or dart rapidly on still water; some emit fluid with disagreeable odor; feed on aquatic creatures.



Dung Beetle Order Coleoptera length 1/4 to 1 inch

Many species in Arkansas; most are black but some are metallic green. Found feeding on dung. Most common species are found rolling ball of dung prior to burying it in the ground.



Rhinoceros Beetle Order Coleoptera length 1 to 2 1/2 inches

Several species in Arkansas; brown to gray with black markings; includes the unicorn beetle, elephant beetle and rhinoceros beetle.



Blister Beetle Order Coleoptera length 1/2 to 3/4 inch

Many species (about 300 in North America) include striped, margined, black, ash gray and others. All resemble each other in appearance though they vary in color. Feed on various vegetables and field crops.



Carrot Beetle Order Coleoptera length 5/8 inch

Adult feeds on corn and celery stalks, potato and carrot roots; larva is scavenger.



Lady Beetle Order Coleoptera length 1/16 to 1/4 inch

Many species in Arkansas; include black lady beetle, two-spotted lady beetle, convergent lady beetle and others that feed on other insects. Mexican bean beetle and squash lady beetle feed on plants.



Order Coleoptera length 1/3 to 1 1/2 inches

Many species (over 1,500 in the United States); include locust borer, cottonwood borer, prionus, twig girdler, sawyer beetle and others. Found around living trees in the bark crevices where they lay eggs. Larvae are round-headed borers.



Saw-toothed Grain Beetle Order Coleoptera length 1/10 inch

Beetle often found in stored food and dry organic matter; adult and larva serious pests.



Order Coleoptera length 1/3 inch

Found in granaries, mills, ships, railroad cars; attacks stored grain, other dry food products; larva often bores woodwork.



Cigarette or Tobacco Beetle Order Coleoptera length 1/3 inch

Adult light brown; serious pest to tobacco and infests other stored products; widespread.



Order Coleoptera length 1/10 inch

Adult reddish brown, named for serious feeding on pharmaceutical drugs; infests most dry plant and animal products.



Firefly or Lightning Bug Order Coleoptera length 1/2 inch

Elongate, flattish; appears at night; both sexes emit light; larva called glowworm.



Giant Stag Beetle Order Coleoptera length 2 inches

Mandibles resemble stag antlers; night flier; attracted to lights; larva lives in decaying wood.



Flower Beetle Order Coleoptera length 1/4 to 3/4 inch

Several species, most common of which is the green June beetle and the bumble-flowerbeetle. These are found feeding on pollen or very ripe fruit or decaying fruit or plant material.



Flea Beetle Order Coleoptera length 1/16 to 1/4 inch

Several different species in Arkansas, including striped flea beetle, grape flea beetle, potato flea beetle; adult jumps about, feeding on foliage, severely damaging plant; larva feeds on roots.



Order Coleoptera length 1/6 inch

Adult flies about crops, feeds on foliage; grub, root-feeder; also known as clover rootworm.



Colorado Potato Beetle or Potato Bug Order Coleoptera length 3/8 inch

Yellow and black striped adult; larva reddish orange soft bug; feed on potato vines, other plants.



Tortoise Beetle or Gold Bug Order Coleoptera length 1/4 inch

Turtle-shaped adult and thorny larva feed on sweet potato foliage, morningglory, bindweed.



Spotted Cucumber Beetle Order Coleoptera length 1/4 inch

Yellowish green, black-spotted; attacks many plants; larva bores roots and underground stems.



Adult general foliage-feeder, spreads disease; larva mines plant roots and stems.



Bean Leaf Beetle Order Coleoptera length 1/6 inch

Reddish, yellowish adult eats holes in leaves; larva feeds on roots.



Asparagus Beetle Order Coleoptera length 1/4 inch

Cream, bluish-black, red adult deposits eggs on plant stems; larva feeds on, stains asparagus.



Shot-hole Borer Order Coleoptera length 1/10 inch

Beetle deposits eggs in twigs, branches; larva tunnels with grain or wood, exit holes look like shot-holes.



Ambrosia Beetle Order Coleoptera length 1/8 inch

Several species; female tunnels oak; grows ambrosia fungi for food; keeps larva under protective care.



Bark Beetle Order Coleoptera length 1/4 inch

One of the most destructive groups of insects attacking coniferous trees; includes southern pine beetle, black turpentine beetle; mines under bark; many transmit fungi.



Engraver Beetle Order Coleoptera length 1/5 inch

Bark beetle; several species; include Ips sp.; lay eggs in inner bark tunnels, where larva develop and feed.



Bean Weevil Order Coleoptera length 1/8 inch

Adult appears on plants, depositing eggs; larva feeds on beans in field and in storage.



in growing pods.

Pea Weevil Order Coleoptera length 1/5 inch



Cowpea Curculio or Pod Weevil Order Coleoptera length 1/4 inch

Hump-backed weevil damages beans, cowpeas, seedling cotton, strawberries; grub develops in green seeds.



Vegetable Weevil Order Coleoptera length 3/8 inch

Spotted, grayish adult damages foliage of many plants; grub feeds on plant roots.

One of worst pests to peas; dark brown or

blackish adult feeds on leaves; larva develops



Rice Water Weevil Order Coleoptera length 1/8 inch

Adult feeds on leaves; larva tunnels and feeds on roots.



White-fringed Beetle Order Coleoptera length 1/2 inch

General plant feeder in southeast United States; no males; larva or grub serious pest to plant roots.



Clover Leaf Weevil Order Coleoptera length 5/16 inch

In dry seasons may destroy alfalfa plantings; larva curves body with head and tail almost touching.





Rice Weevil Order Coleoptera length 1/8 inch

Attacks corn in field and many stored grain products; many generations a year possible.



Sweet Potato Weevil Order Coleoptera length 1/4 inch

Bad pest of sweet potato; blue-black and red adult feeds on leaves, stems; grub honeycombs tubers in field and storage.



Strawberry Crown Borer Order Coleoptera length 1/5 inch

Larva tunnels through strawberry crowns, stunting or killing plants.



Strawberry Weevil Order Coleoptera length 1/8 inch

Damages strawberries, other plants; feeds in buds and stems, causing fruit reduction.



Several species attack different nuts; long, curving beak bores in nut, deposits eggs

singly; maggot-like larva forms on kernel.



Boll Weevil Order Coleoptera length 1/4 inch

Serious pest to United States cotton; grub and beetle feed on squares, bolls or terminal buds. **Plum Curculio** Order Coleoptera length 1/4 inch



Pest of stone fruits, apple; adult feeds on fruit, foliage; grub feeds inside fruit.

Order: Mecoptera (Scorpionflies)

Wings – Two pairs, long and narrow

Mouthparts – Chewing

Metamorphosis – Complete Scorpionfly Order Mecoptera length 1 inch

Added Note – Mouthparts at the end of long, broad snout. Found on low vegetation in dense woods or sometimes in open fields.

Two pairs of wings, same thickness with 12 or more cross veins; tarsus (foot) with five segments; head prolonged into a long beak. Hangs suspended by fore legs from rank herbage; hind and fore legs catch living insects. Found along shaded streams and in damp woods; feeds on dead or injured insects.

Order: Trichoptera

(Caddisflies)

Wings – Two pairs

Mouthparts - Chewing

Metamorphosis – Complete

Added Note – Wings covered with short hairs and held roof-like over body when at rest. Found near water.

Two pairs of wings alike in thickness, with less than 12 cross veins. Front pair of wings as small or smaller than back pair. Mouthparts small and inconspicuous. Distinguished from moths by having hairs instead of scales on wings.

Order: Lepidoptera

(Butterflies, Moths, Skippers)

Wings – Two pairs

Mouthparts – Siphoning

Metamorphosis - Complete

Two pairs of wings alike in thickness; wings or wing veins clothed with scales appearing as "dust" when roughly handled.



Bollworm Lepidoptera wing span 1 1/2 inches

Yellowish to brownish; larva infests many plants; known also as corn earworm, tomato fruitworm, tobacco budworm.



Order Lepidoptera wing span 2 inches

Several species in Arkansas; night-flying moths attracted to lights; varying colors; larva cuts plants off near soil surface.



Green Cloverworm Order Lepidoptera wing span 1 1/4 inches



Dark brown moth; slender, greenish larva attacks legumes and other crops.



Pale brown or brownish-gray with white dot in front wing center; larva very destructive.



Several different stalk borers; include lesser stalk borer, European corn borer and southwestern corn borer. Caterpillar bores into stems, feeding on heart of plant; migrates about field.



Diamondback Moth Order Lepidoptera wing span 5/8 inch

About 50 species in North America; gray; male fore wings yellow-striped to form diamond shapes; larva is plant-feeder.



Fall Webworm Order Lepidoptera wing span 1 1/4 inches

Hairy caterpillar, spins dirty-white web on shade trees and shrubs, feeding on foliage.





Oriental Fruit Moth Order Lepidoptera wing span 3/8 inch

Forest Tent Caterpillar or Forest Armyworm Order Lepidoptera wing span 3 1/2 inches

Larva defoliates many shade and forest trees.



Cankerworm Order Lepidoptera wing span 1 1/4 inches

Male moth, wingless female; larva feeds on fruit and other trees; spring cankerworm is similar species.



Sphinx Moth Order Lepidoptera wing span 2 to 4 inches

Several species include tomato hornworm, tobacco hornworm, catalpa sphinx and others. Adults feed on nectar from flowers. Resemble hummingbirds when flying early at night.

Attacks peach, apple, other fruit trees; early larvae tunnel twigs; later ones feed in fruit.



Codling Moth Order Lepidoptera wing span 3/4 inch

Most important pest of apple; larva feeds in fruit until full-grown.

Clearwing Moth Order Lepidoptera wing span 1 1/4 inches

About 100 species in North America; wings have transparent areas; larva chews into woody plant parts; includes peach tree borer and grape root borer.



Late summer and early fall injury to trees by dark green, active caterpillar feeding in web.



Larva spins silken web over grape clusters; feeds in and destroys grape berries.



Early larvae roll leaves and spin slight webs; later generations attack fruit.





Angoumois Grain Moth Order Lepidoptera wing span 1/2 inch

Weathered straw-colored adult; larva, dangerous common pest, infests grains in field, storage.



Mediterranean Flour Moth Order Lepidoptera wing span 1 inch

Larva prefers flour and meal, attacks other foodstuff; webs masses of flour in mills.

Indianmeal Moth Order Lepidoptera wing span 3/4 inch



Pest of stored foods, grain; larva spins silken tubes through meal, dried fruits and other products.



- Melonworm or Pickleworm Order Lepidoptera length 1 1/4 inches
- Translucent, yellowish-green larva feeds on leaves, fruit of cucurbits; adult, iridescent, pearly-white, black-bordered.



Pistol Casebearer Order Lepidoptera wing span 1/2 inch

Brown worm enclosed in curved, silken case; eats holes in leaves, buds and fruits of apple, pear, cherry, plum, other trees.



Adult flies about, depositing eggs; larvae feed on fabrics, some forming webs, some cases.



Giant silkworm; reddish-brown, whitish and black lines, clay-colored margin; cocoons common sight in trees.



Cecropia Moth Order Lepidoptera wing span 7 inches

Pale green, red and yellow larva feeds on foliage of apple, other trees and shrubs.



Gypsy Moth Order Lepidoptera wing span 2 inches



Serious pest of evergreen and deciduous trees; larva strips foliage, often killing trees.



Regal Moth Order Lepidoptera wing span 5 inches

Magnificent royal moth; olive, yellow, red, orangered; larva, hickory horned devil, feeds on leaves of trees and shrubs.



Luna Moth Order Lepidoptera wing span 4 1/2 inches

Favorite with amateur collectors; delicate light green with purple-brown band and transparent-center eyelike spots.



Black Witch Order Lepidoptera wing span 6 inches

Night-flying moth attracted by lights; eyes shine in darkness; larva feeds on tree leaves.



Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly Order Lepidoptera wing span 5 inches

Magnificent, tail-like edges on hind wings; black marked with yellow, blue or green.



Zebra Swallowtail Butterfly Order Lepidoptera wing span 3 1/2 inches

Black wings are crossed by several bands of greenish-white; larva feeds on pawpaw.



Ruddy brown, black-bordered; white-spotted;

larva feeds on milkweed; distasteful to birds.

Monarch Butterfly Order Lepidoptera wing span 4 inches

Viceroy Butterfly

Order Lepidoptera

wing span 3 inches



Cabbage Butterfly Order Lepidoptera wing span 1 1/4 inches

One of the most common butterflies; wings are dull-white with black spots; larva is plant feeder.



Clouded Sulphur or Roadside Butterfly Order Lepidoptera wing span 2 inches

Pale greenish-yellow, blackish-brown border; underside sulphur-yellow; found in muddy places.





Orange to cinnamon with black, white-spotted; mimics monarch in detail, perhaps for

> Great Spangled Fritillary Order Lepidoptera wing span 4 inches

Tawny, black-checkered, silvery-spotted; Latin name means dice box; larva feeds on passion flowers.



protection.

Painted Lady Order Lepidoptera wing span 2 1/4 inches

Dark brownish-black, orange; eyelike spots on hind wings; larva feeds on composite plants.

Larva feeds on orange tree, prickly ash foliage; red, protruding horns, emit bad odor.



Red Admiral Order Lepidoptera wing span 2 1/4 inches

Purplish-black, bright orange band, white spots; larva feeds on certain tree leaves.

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Giant Skipper Order Lepidoptera wing span 3 inches

Daytime flier with rapid, darting flight; rests wings vertically; larva, stem-borer.



Mourningcloak Butterfly Order Lepidoptera wing span 2 3/4 inches

Purplish-brown, yellow border, brown and blue spotted; larva feeds on tree leaves, known to strip large branches.



Many different species; resembles large mosquito. Found in damp, dark places, around water or in windows of houses; some come to lights.



Soldier Fly Order Diptera length 3/4 inch

Adult widespread; larva may invade human body, causing intestinal myiasis.

Order: Diptera

(Flies, Mosquitoes, Midges)

Wings – One pair

Mouthparts – Piercing, sucking or sponging

Metamorphosis – Complete

One pair of wings, membranous, similar to cellophane in appearance.



Mosquito Order Diptera length 3/16 to 3/8 inch

Many species (more than 100 in United States), include rice field, southern house, malaria, yellow fever, salt-marsh and others. Larvae live in water; adult females suck blood for food.



Cheese Skipper Order Diptera length 3/16 inch

Shiny fly; larva infests meat, cheese, other foods; bends body double to leap; world-wide.



Tachinid Fly Order Diptera length 1/4 to 3/8 inch

Many species in Arkansas; parasitic on other insects.

March Fly Order Diptera length 1/2 inch



Several species; adults common in early spring; fly in swarms; larva feeds on decaying matter or grass roots.



Window-pane Fly Order Diptera length 3/16 inch

Often found around windows of mills and warehouses; preys on stored-grain insects.





Robber Fly Order Diptera length 1 to 2 inches

Many species (more than 500 in North America); large, fierce fly capable of fast flight; adult, larva feed on insects including large species.



Bee Fly Order Diptera length 1/2 inch

Adult feeds on flower nectar; about 500 species known in United States; rests on sunny paths, sticks or stones; larva feeds on insects.



Black Fly, Turkey or Buffalo Gnat Order Diptera length 1/5 inch

Several species in Arkansas; small, dark-colored flies with short legs and hump-backed appearance; larvae live in water; female adults suck blood and are serious pests of livestock in some areas of Arkansas.



Many species in the United States; appearance like very small mosquito. All live around water or in mud; some species, like the punkies, suck blood. These are very annoying in Arkansas in early morning and evening during spring.



Seedcorn Maggot Order Diptera length 1/4 inch

Legless, yellowish-white grub with tough skin; severely damages seedlings; grows into adult fly.



Order Diptera length 5/16 inch

House Fly Order Diptera length 1/4 inch

Common in dwellings nation-wide; deposits eggs in manure; disease carrier.



Order Diptera length 3/16 inch

Annoying, bloodsucking pest of cattle; deposits eggs in fresh cattle droppings.



Stable Fly Order Diptera length 1/4 inch

Looks like house fly; attacks animals and man; bites, especially on legs.





Horse Fly and Deer Fly Order Diptera length 1/2 to 1 1/4 inches

Many species (about 300 in North America); attacks man and animals in woods or marshes; painful bite.

Many species including green-bottle fly and blue-bottle fly. Many are metallic green or blue in color. Flesh flies are black with stripes. Larvae live in carrion or decaying animals. Screwworm fly is parasitic and lives in living flesh.



Hessian Fly Order Diptera length 1/8 inch

Wheat, barley, rye are preferred food; legless, headless maggots feed on plant sap.



Sheep Bot Fly Order Diptera length 1/2 inch

Adult deposits larvae in nose of sheep and goats, maggots develop in sinus area.



Horse Bot Fly Order Diptera length 2/3 inch

Adult annoys livestock by buzzing flight; larva lives in digestive tract of livestock.

> Sheep Tick, Louse Fly or Ked Order Diptera length 1/4 inch



Wingless fly; lives in fleece of host, sucking blood through skin; attacks goats, sheep.



Cattle Grub, Heel or Warble Fly Order Diptera length 7/16 inch

Adult deposits eggs on cattle hairs; maggots live in body, bore out back, fall to ground, pupate in soil.

Order: Siphonaptera

(Fleas)

Wings - None

Mouthparts – Piercing, sucking



Metamorphosis-Complete

Added Note – Live on animals. Collect them by dusting a cat or dog with pyrethrum powder and place the animal over a white cloth. Fleas will drop off on cloth.

Wingless; external parasites of birds and mammals; body strongly compressed from side to side; legs fitted for jumping.

Several species (about 1,100 known worldwide); adult bites dogs, cats, man; common; may infest dwellings.

Order: Hymenoptera

(Bees, Wasps, Ants)

Wings - Two pairs. Worker ants are wingless.

Mouthparts - Chewing

Metamorphosis - Complete

Two pairs of wings the same thickness with less than 12 cross veins; first pair of wings larger than second and mouthparts well developed.



Sawfly Order Hymenoptera length 1/2 to 1 1/2 inches

Many species of sawflies in Arkansas, including web-spinning sawflies, pine sawflies, horntails, wood wasps, stem sawflies, sawfly leaf miners and others.



Honey Bee Order Hymenoptera length 3/4 inch

Builds nest in hollow trees or man-provided hives; collects pollen, produces honey, pollinates many crops.



Mud Dauber Order Hymenoptera length 1 1/2 inches

Several species in Arkansas; vary in color. Makes mud nest on lower surface of stones or buildings; feeds young on spiders or caterpillars.



Bumble Bee Order Hymenoptera length 1 1/2 inches

Social family with queen, workers, males; queen often builds in deserted ground nests of mice; pollinators.



Parasitic Wasp Order Hymenoptera length 3/4 to 1 1/2 inches

Many species (more than 6,000) which are parasites on other insects. Some are very tiny parasitizing aphids and some are large parasitizing wood borers.



Wingless Wasp or Velvet Ant Order Hymenoptera length 1 1/3 inches

Several species in Arkansas; most clothed in velvet-like hairs; guest or parasite in nests of wasps or bees; strong stinger.



Baldfaced Hornet Order Hymenoptera length 1 inch

Builds large, grayish, paper nest on tree limbs and buildings; feeds on insects; vicious stinger.



Yellowjacket Order Hymenoptera length 1 1/4 inches

Builds paperlike nest in ground; feeds and raises young on other insects; has painful sting.



Sphecoid Wasp Order Hymenoptera length 3/4 inch

Many species; nest builder in earth or dead wood; provisions nest with paralyzed insects or spiders.



Carpenter Bee Order Hymenoptera length 3/16 inch

Resembles bumble bee; builds solitary nest in wood or hollow stems; pollinates plants.



Order Hymenoptera length 1/32 to 1/2 inch

Many different ants are common in Arkansas including carpenter ant, Pharaoh ant, southern fire ant, imported fire ant, harvester ant and others.

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