Entomology

Janet Spencer Extension Agent, ANR Isle of Wight County

Entomology

The study of insects
Dominant groups of animals on earth today
Life on earth:
Modern humans=200,000 years
Insects=350 million years
100,000 different species live in North America

Insect Classification

Hierarchal system of classification
Kingdom > Phylum > Class > Order > Family > Genus > Species
Kingdom=Animal
Phylum=Arthropods
Class=Insecta

Arthropoda classes

- Crustacea
 - Crayfish, sowbugs
 - 2 body segments and 5 pairs of legs
- Arachnida
 - Spiders, ticks, and mites
 - 2 body segments and 4 pairs of legs
- Symphyla
 - Symphylans
 - 2 body segments and 12 pairs of legs



Arthropods

- Segmented body
- Paired appendages
- Bilateral symmetry
- Chitinous exoskeleton
- Tubular alimentary system, with mouth & anus
- Open circulatory system
- Nervous system
- Respiration by gills, trachea, or spiracles
- Sexes are almost always separate



Insecta

• Bugs, beetles, and butterflies

• 3 body segments and 3 pairs of legs



Insect Orders

- About 28 different orders of insects
- Divided into these orders based on structure of wings and mouthparts and their type of metamorphosis
- Ametabolous: growth without change
- Paurometabolous: incomplete or gradual
 - Hemimetabolous
- Holometabolous: complete metamorphosis







• Collembola

- Springtails
- Ametabolous

• Orthoptera

- Grasshoppers, crickets
- Paurometabolous

• Isoptera

- Termites
- Paurometabolous

• Hemiptera

- True bugs
- paurometabolous









O Homoptera

- Aphids, scales
- Paurometabolous

• Coleoptera

- Beetles, weevils
- Holometabolous

• Lepidoptera

- Butterflies & moths
- Holometabolous

• Hymenoptera

- Wasps , bees, ants
- o holometabolous









O Diptera

- Flies
- Holometabolous

O Siphonoptera

- Fleas
- Holometabolous

O Dermaptera

- Earwigs
- Paurometabolous

• Thysanura

- Silverfish
- ametabolous









• Ephemeroptera

- Mayflies
- Hemimetabolous

• Odonata

- Dragonflies & damselflies
- Hemimetabolous

• Blattaria

- O Cockroaches
- Paurometabolous

Phasmida

• Walking sticks• Paurometabolous









o Mantodea

- Mantids
- Paurometabolous

• Phthiraptera

- Lice
- Paurometabolous

O Thysanoptera

- Thrips
- Hybrid between holo- and pauro-metabolous

O Neuroptera

- Lacewings, antlions
- Holometabolous









Morphology

Head: Antennae

- <u>Filiform</u>: threadlike, the segments are nearly uniform in size and usually cylindrical (ground beetle)
- <u>Monofiliform</u>: like a string of beads, segments are similar in size and more or less spherical in shape (some beetles)
- <u>Clavate</u>: segments increasing in diameter distally (ladybird beetles)
- <u>Serrate</u>: sawlike, segments more or less triangular (click beetle)
- <u>Pectinate</u>: comblike, most segments with long, slender, lateral processes (some beetles)
- <u>Setaceous</u>: bristlelike, segments becoming more slender distally (dragonfly, damselfly)
- <u>Plumose</u>: feathery, most segments with whorls of long hair (math moths; allows for more surface area to pick up pheromones; mosquitoes)
- <u>Aristate</u>: last segment usually enlarged and bearing a conspicuous dorsal bristal (blow flies; used as air speed indicators)











MONILIFORM (Bark beetles)



(June Beetle)

SERRATE

(Click beetle)



GENICULATE (Chalcid)





(Snipe fly)

CLAVATE (Ladybird Beetle)

PLUMOSE

(Mosquitoes)



(Cedar beetle)

PECTINATE (Fire-colored Beetle)

≹ SETACEOUS (Dragonfly)









Head: Mouthparts

- O Chewing
- Rasping-sucking: Thrips
- Piercing-sucking: cicadas and mosquitoes
- Sponging: houseflies (lap up liquids)



- Siphoning: butterflies & moths
- Chewing-lapping: bees (have both mandibles and a proboscis)
 - Vestigial: mayflies









Thorax

• Prothorax, mesothorax, and metathorax

- Each segment bears a pair of legs
- Wings are attached to the mesothorax and metathorax, but never the prothorax
- Legs of insects vary greatly in size and form and are often used for classification purposes
- Walking, jumping, diggings, grasping, feeling, swimming, carrying loads, building nests, and cleaning
- Leg adaptations
 - Grasshoppers: enlarged femur for jumping
 - Beetle: enlongated tarsi for running













Wings

- Are the outgrowths of the body wall
- Venation can vary dramatically from species to species and is often used as a means for identification
- Most of insect orders end with "ptera", which is greek for "with wings"
- Can be covered with fine hairs or scales (moths & butterflies) or bare (dragonflies)





Abdomen

- May have 11 or 12 segments, but often hard to distinguish from one another
- Some may have cerci at the tip of the abdomen (earwigs)
- Length can vary greatly from different insect species



Development

- Critical development occurs just after birth or egg hatch
- Reproduction
 - Most need to mate in order for eggs to be fertilized
 - Some are able to reproduce without sperm fertilization
 - Some can reproduce either way



Insect Orders


























































































Insect Injury

• Chewing insects

• Chew off portions of plant

O Piercing-sucking insects

• Pierce skin and suck up plant juices

O Internal feeders

• Gain entrance into plant and feed on the inside

Subterranean insects

 Attack plant from below the soil surface

- Injury by laying eggs
- Nest materials
 - Remove tissue to use in nests
- O Vectors of plant diseases







Squash vine borer damage on Hubbard squash [Picture by R. Foster]















Beneficial insects

- Pollinators
 - Aid in the production of fruits, seeds, vegetables, and flowers
- Weed feeders
- Improve physical condition of soil and promote fertility by burrowing
 - Millipedes, centipedes
- Scavengers
 - Devouring bodies of dead animals and plants
 - Bury carcasses and dung

Beneficial insects

• Predators

- Catch and feed on other creatures (prey)
- Ground beetles
- Lace wings and lady bugs
- Parasites
 - Live on or in the bodies of living organisms (hosts)
 - Host are usually larger and stronger than the parasites and are not killed promptly
 - Parasitic wasps of aphids and hornworms















Questions???

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