

## **Insect Diversity 101**





#### Larry Dapsis





Cape Cod Cooperative Extension

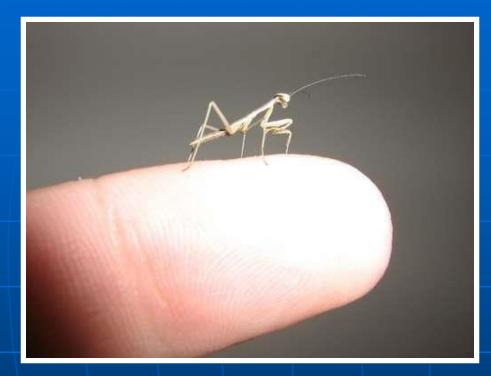
www.capecodextension.org

508-375-6642





### Lotsa' "Baby" Praying Mantis'....



Off to School... Environmental Science/Biology Entomology - Vegetable Crops



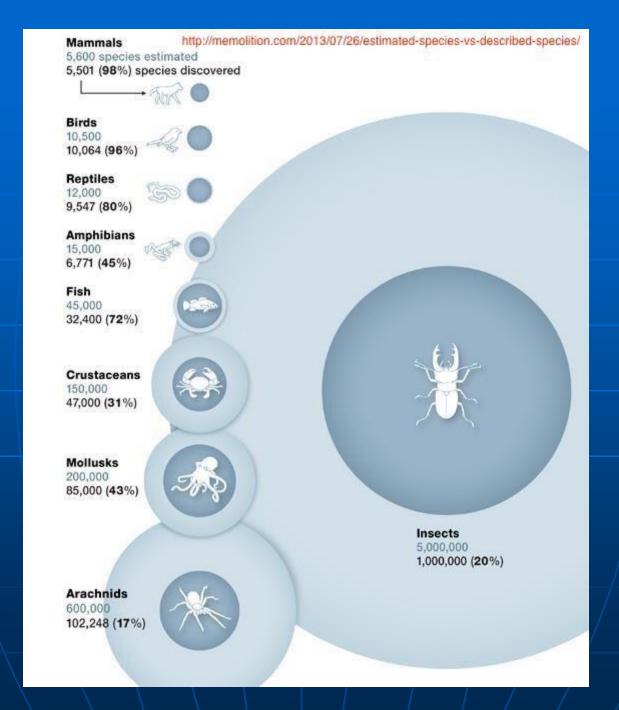
### From School to....Consumer Product Development

### Consumer Product Development

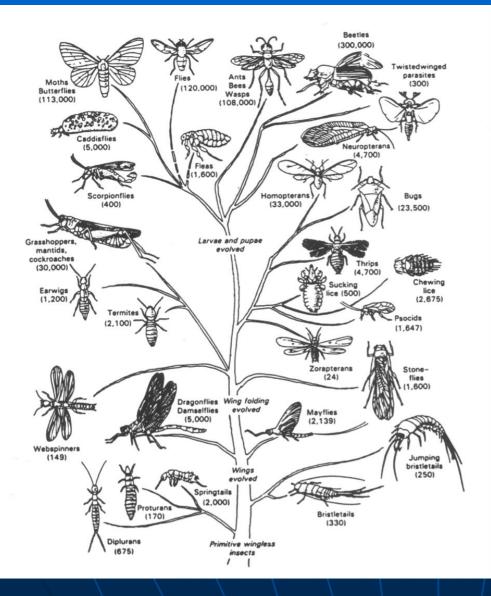
...Then back to Agriculture, Integrated Pest Management







### Insect Orders - 31 classified "buckets"

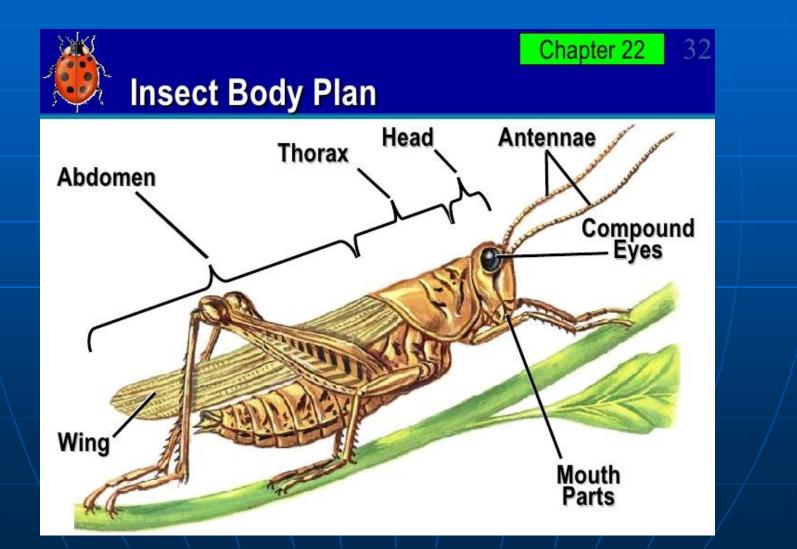


Housefly Kingdom Phylum Class Order Family Genus Species



Animalia Arthropoda Insect Diptera Muscidae Musca domestica

# *Insect morphology* Basic body plan...





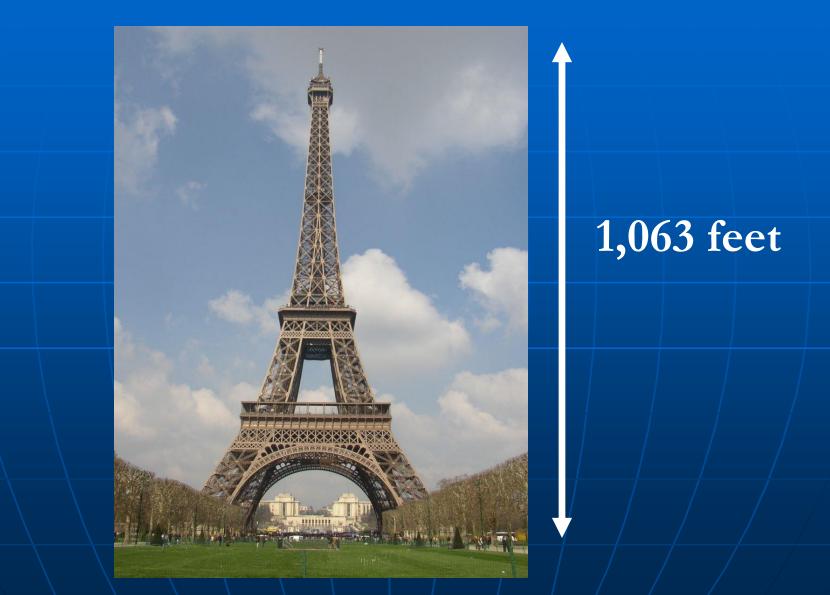


## Order Collembola - Springtails



#### 6 mm or less

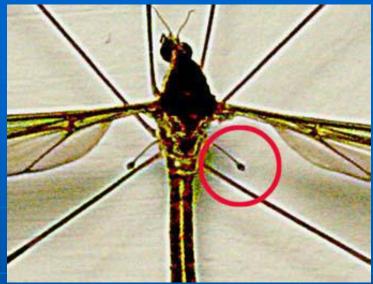
## 7 inch jump =



### **Order Diptera - Flies**

One pair of wings...





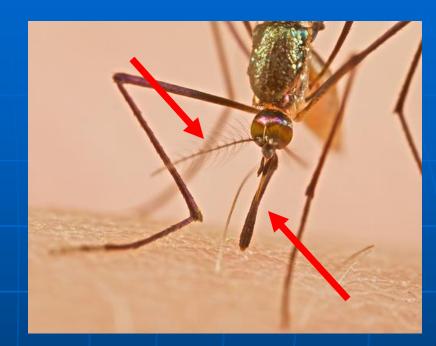
### Halteres

### **Order Diptera - Flies**

Mouthparts can be spongy (below) or modified into a tube (right)

Antennae short or long and feathery...





Not Wasps or Bees....

Order Diptera – Flies...one pair of wings...Mimicry







### Eyes can be the dominant part of the head







Eye diversity to the max!

Stalkeyed fly

#### Order Lepidoptera – Butterflies, Moths and Skippers





Large wings with respect to body size

Antennae - Feathered or thin with a club

Mouthparts usually long and coiled



## Vampire Moth







Moths largely nocturnal Cryptic

appearance

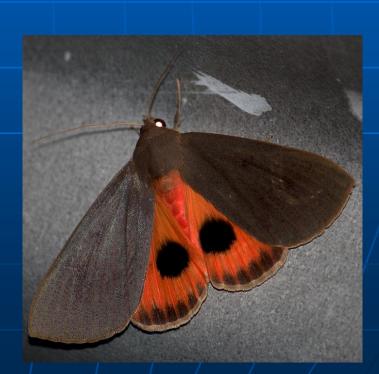
marlin '06

Moth predation daytime: Birds have excellent vision...

## **Underwing Moth**







## Great Lep Impersonations...







#### **Order Thysanura – Silverfish and Firebrats**



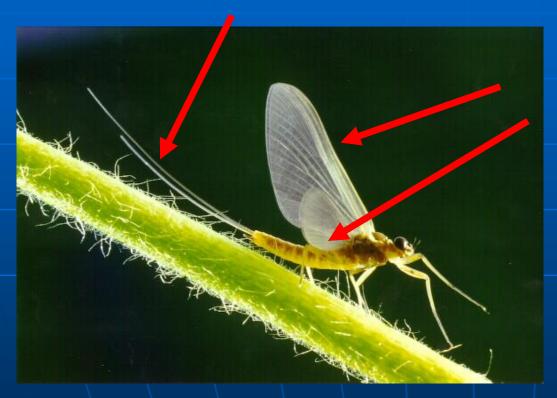
Soft bodied

No wings

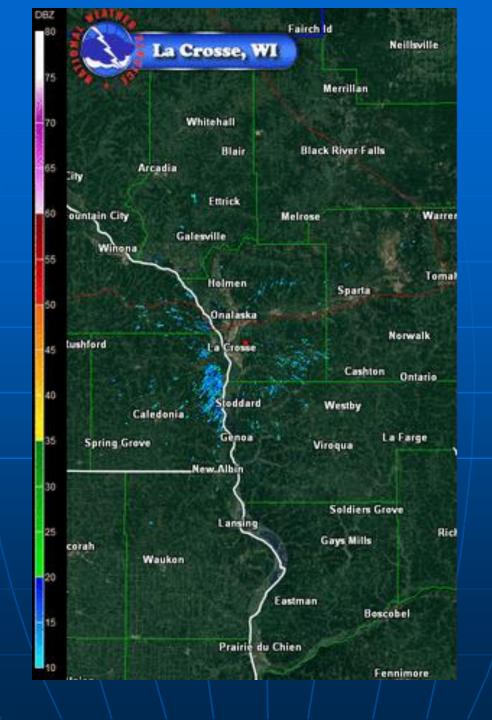
Three filaments on abdomen

Long slender antennae

### Order Emphemeroptera -Mayflies



Aquatic Long slender bodies Front wings large and triangular, hind wings much smaller Held vertically over the body Three caudal filaments on abdomen

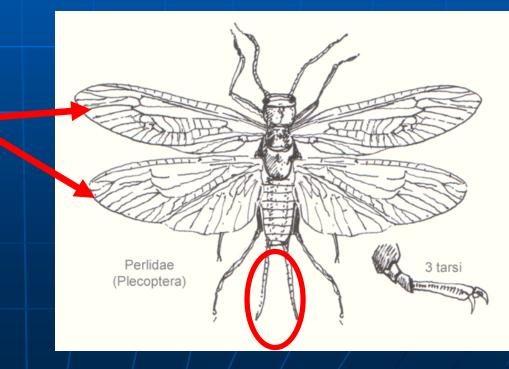


http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014 /07/23/mayfly-hatch-wisconsinphotos-radar\_n\_5614449.html

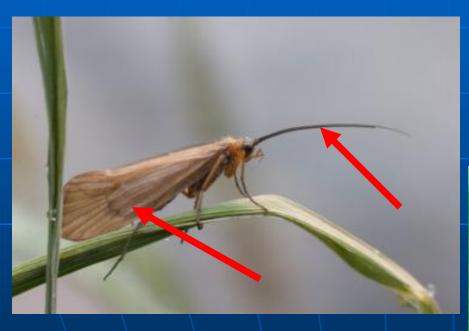
### Order Plecoptera -Stoneflies



Aquatic...2 pairs of wings equal in size Long slender antennae One pair of caudal filaments (mayflies 3)



#### **Order Trichoptera - Caddisflies**



Aquatic Wings held in an "Aframe"

Long thin antennae



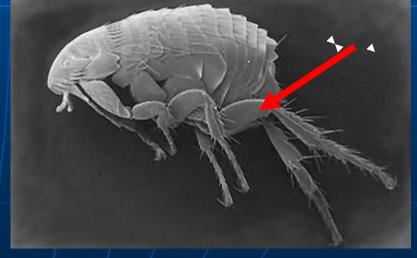
**Order Siphonaptera - Fleas** 

Genal comb

Strongly flattened body Powerful jumping legs...











#### **Order Mecoptera – Scorpionflies**

"Long face"

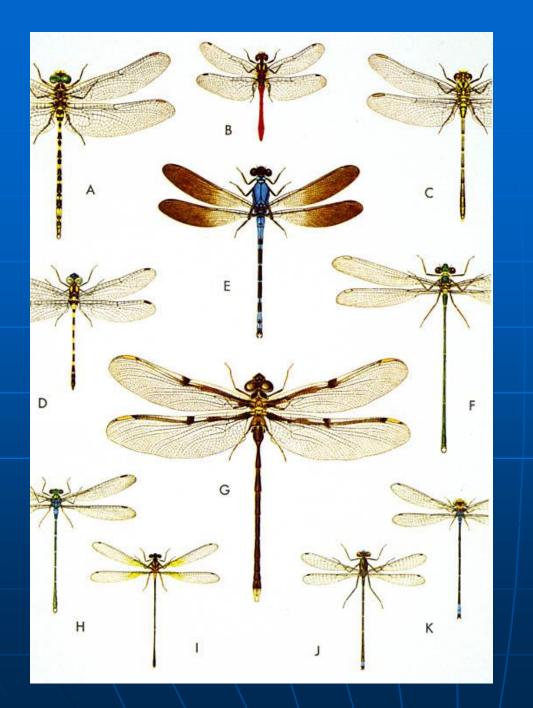
Male genetalia scorpionlike...

### Order Odonata – Dragonflies & Damselflies





Large Eyes...good vision Spindle shaped antennae Well developed mandibles



Two pairs of semitransparent wings

Long slender abdomen





Dragonfly wings are held out against the body

Damselfly wings are held back along the body

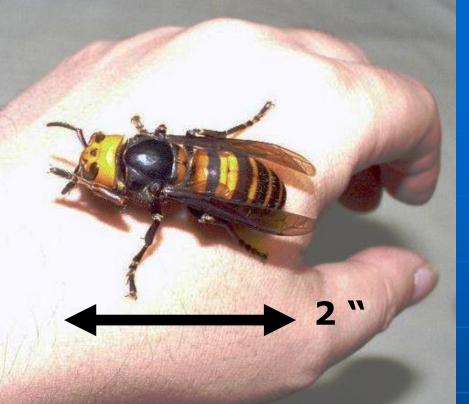
#### Order Hymenoptera – Wasps, Bees, Ants

Wasps - Two pairs of membranous wings

Abdomen highly constricted "wasp waist"



#### See The Insect Societies...E.O. Wilson

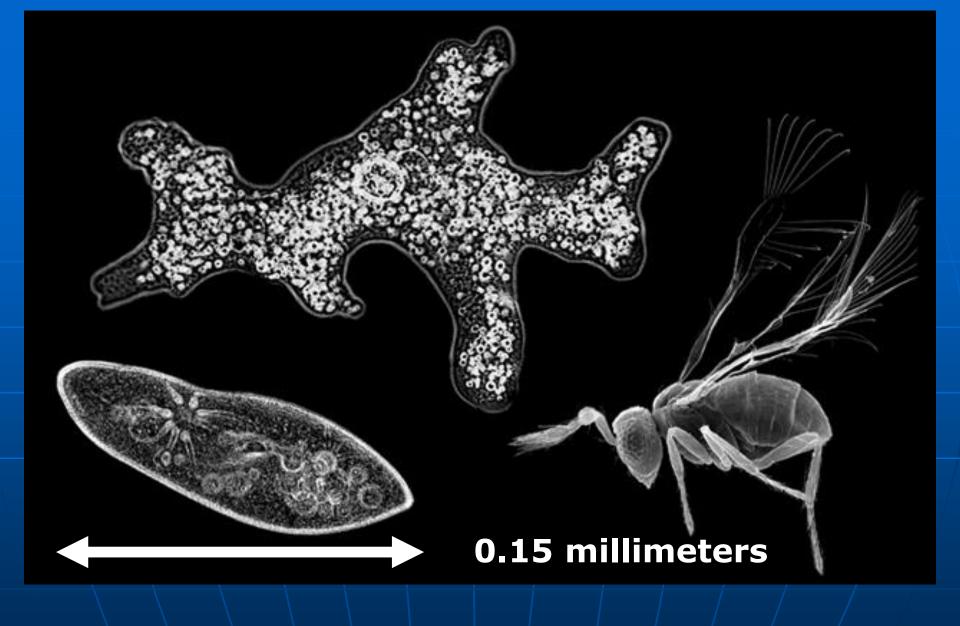


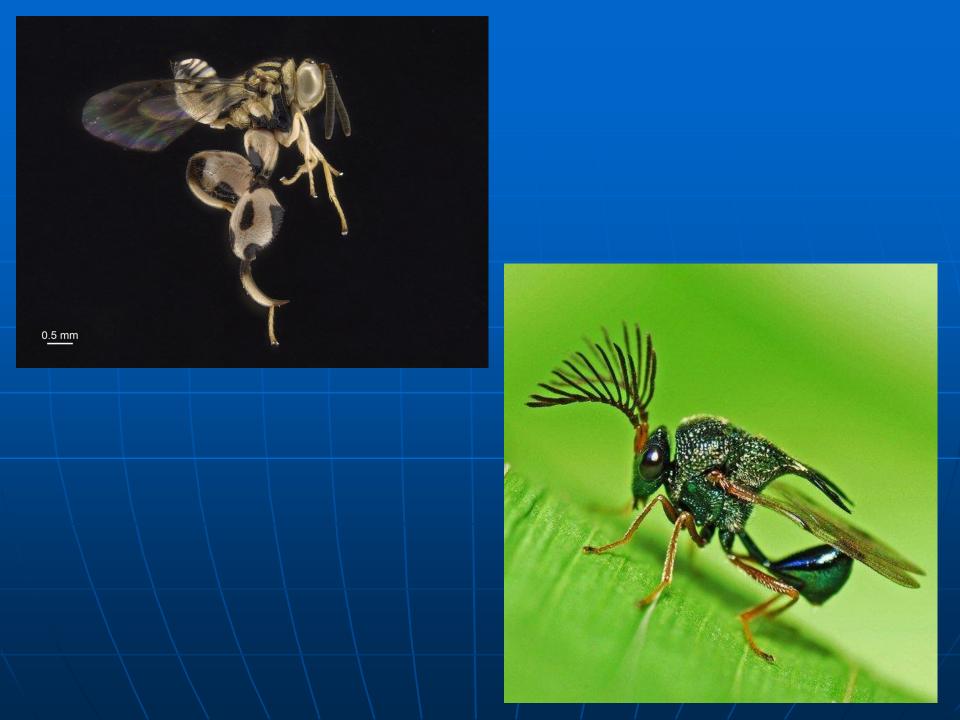
### Asian Giant Hornet...aka Yak-Killer

Very large size range



Fairy Wasp...









#### Braconid wasp

#### Parasitized Tomato Hornworm

Polyembryony

#### Order Hymenoptera -Wasps



Woodboring beetle parasitoid



#### White grub parasitoid





#### **Order Hymenoptera - Bees**

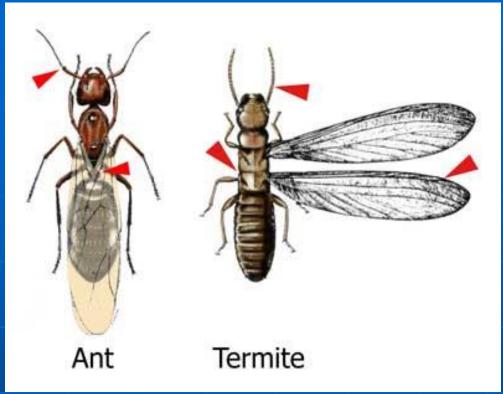
Bumblebee Economics, Bern Heinrich

#### **Order Hymenoptera - Ants**



Elbowed antennae Constricted "waist" between the thorax and abdomen





Termites – sometimes confused with swarming carpenter ants...

Ant - Elbowed antennae, pinched waist) Termite - Filiform antennae, abdomen as wide as thorax

#### Ant Mimicry



#### Crab spider



#### Treehopper

#### **Order Dermaptera - Earwigs**





#### Cerci, forcep-like

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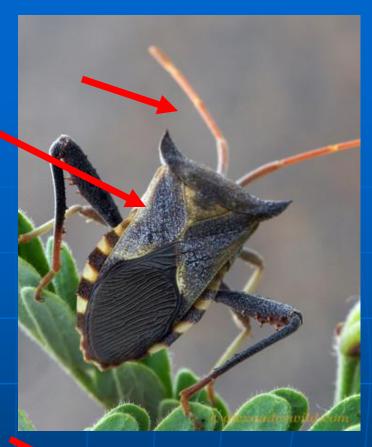
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#### Order Hemiptera - Bugs

Front wing thickened at base, membranous at tip Antennae (if present) long Beaklike mouthparts Center of thorax triangular.









#### Spined Soldier Bug

#### **Tarnished Plant Bug**





Hemiptera: Some are beneficial predators. Others feed on plants and can be significant agricultural pests.



 Hemipterans make great models for the people that make movies about predatory space aliens...





Order Homoptera – planthoppers, treehoppers, cicadas & aphids

Hoppers – Bristle-like antennae

**Beak mouthparts** 

#### Mimicry



Cicada – Membranous wings and bristle-like antennae. Some cicadas spend 7, 13 or 17 years as nymphs in the soil and emerge synchronously, and are VERY Loud...



#### Cicadamania.com

Order Homoptera: Aphids – Soft-bodied. Long antennae and <u>cornicles</u>

Aphids with wings lay eggs

Wingless females parthenogenetic





#### **Order Dictyoptera – Cockroachs and Mantids**





Cockroach

Flattened body with head concealed from above

Wings usually present

Long antennae







Mantids Wings, two pair

Front legs raptorial



Orthoptera (grasshoppers, crickets) vs Dictyoptera

Cockroaches and mantids used to be classified as Orthoptera...



Orthoptera - robust cylindrical body Cockroaches - flattened







Order Coleoptera -Beetles Front wings - hard or leathery. Hind wings membranous

#### Chewing mouthparts





Seven Spot Ladybird Beetle – Massachusetts State Insect

1974....Franklin, MA...

















#### The MOST diverse insect order...

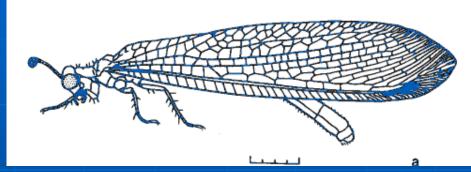
400,000 species...

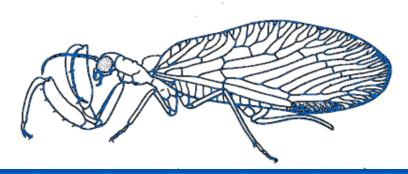
# ...50% of total animal species on the planet!!!





#### Order Neuroptera: lacewings, antlions, owlflies







2 pairs of membranous wingsVariability in overall structure...



Not a stonefly....fishfly, Order Neuroptera ...Aquatic, like a stonefly but no cerci...





Not a paper wasp....mantisfly, Order Neuroptera ...note front legs, raptorial





Not a dragonfly....owlfly, Order Neuroptera ...note long antennae

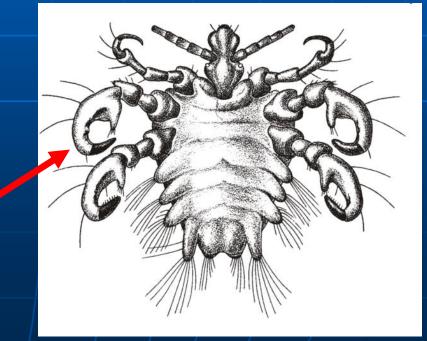
#### **Order Phthiraptera - Lice**

Body highly flattened

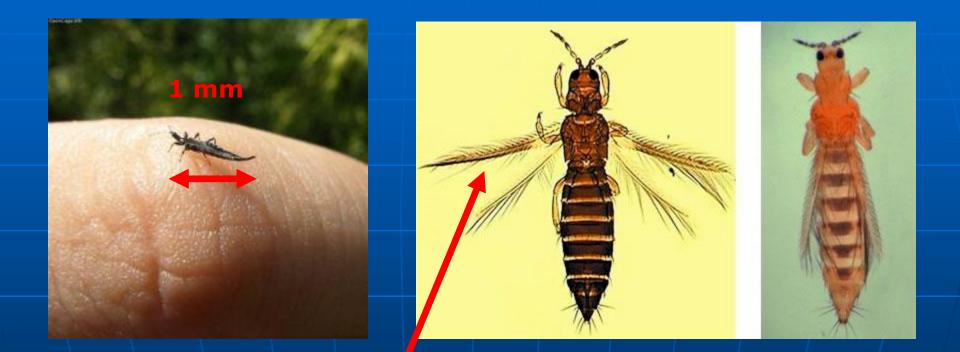
Legs have prominent claws

Very host specific





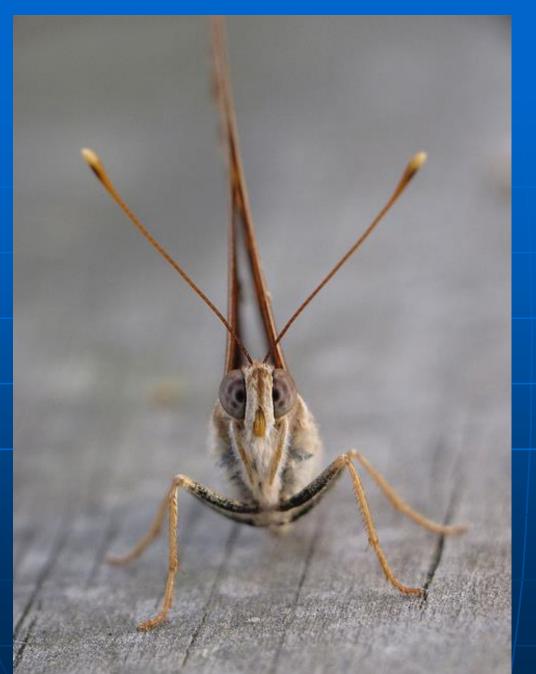
#### Order Thysanoptera - Thrips



### Fringed wings

#### **Onion Thrips Damage**





#### OK team Wolbachia...start your PCR engines...

#### **Insect Collecting Tips**

- Habitats like open meadows are very rich in species composition
- Rip apart logs, look under bark...
- Flowering plants attract many insects...you may find ambush bugs (Order Hemiptera) that have the same coloration as the flower
- Hang a white sheet and place a black light to illuminate it...you can find some really cool insects this way, especially if you are next to a pond or a stream
- Piles of dead leaves with some soil can be put into a Berlese funnel (easy to make). Great way to collect springtails, ground Inbeetles and creatures like whip scorpions (they do not sting)
- Window sills and light fixtures...better than you think
- Farms...growers will gladly let you take away their bugs like Colorado potato beetle, striped cucumber beetle, mexican bean beetle, flea beetles, etc.
- Put out a saucer with cider vinegar and a drop of dish detergent...fruit fly party
- Inspect spider webs

#### **Insect Collecting Resources**

#### bioquip.com

- extension.entm.purdue.edu/401Book
- <u>http://mississippientomologicalmuseum.org.msstate.edu/collecting.preparation.methods/Blacklight.traps.htm#.WKHuPWeFPcs</u>
  - Black light and a white sheet...attracts an amazing number of insects. Try hanging the sheet next to a pond!
- <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J5rGo3uBFIU</u>
  - How to make a Berlese funnel...simple way to collect insects in soil/leaf litter



## Spending time outside learning about ecological habitats is great.

Deer ticks and their ability to vector five very significant diseases is a real thing.

The bright spot in this is that tick-borne illnesses are entirely preventable

See www.capecodextension.org

...Do not let one bite <u>CHANGE</u> your life,

cause it can...

I lifted pictures for this deck from a number of sources. But I recommend you check out this site in particular:

www.alexanderwild.com

Alex is a professor of entomology at the University of Illinois. He is an awesome insect photographer...definitely check this site out...