# 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 > FamilyGenus > 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





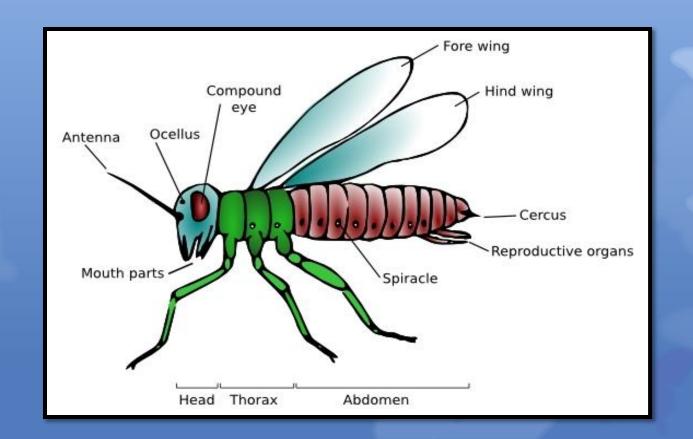
# **Arthropods**

- 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



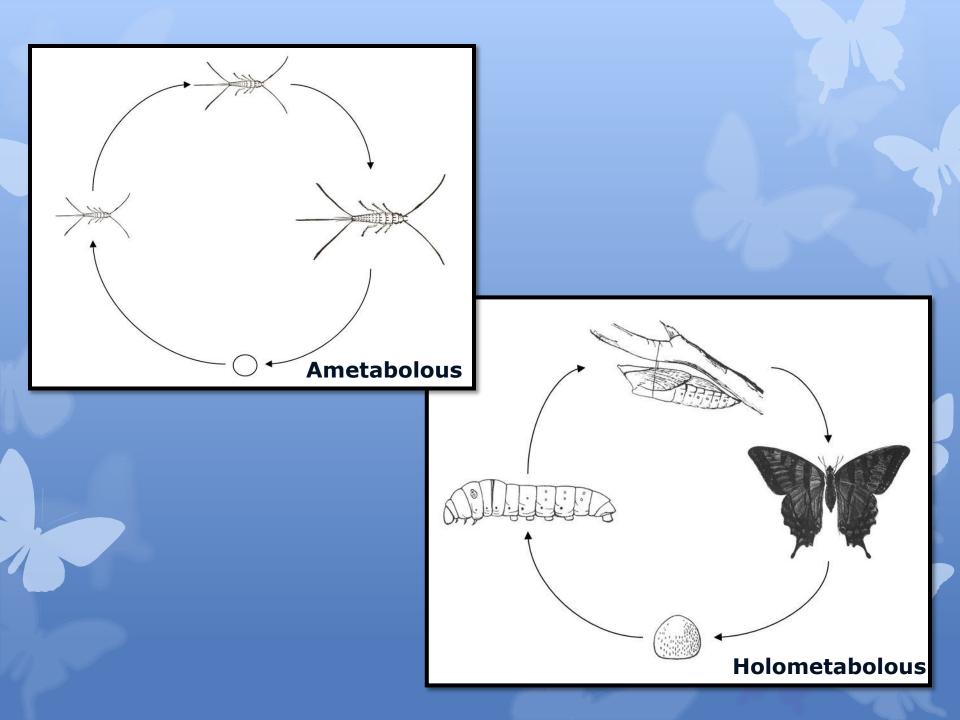
# **Insecta**

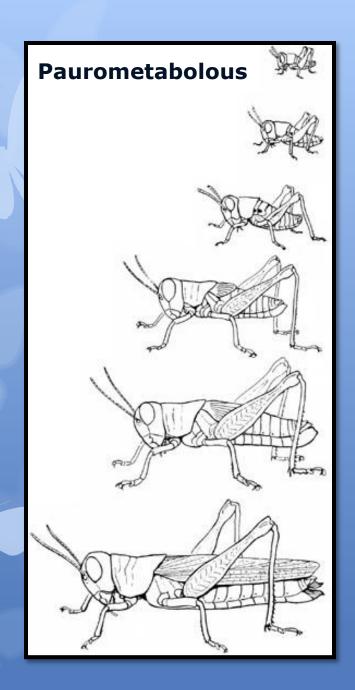
- Bugs, beetles, and butterflies
- 3 body segments and 3 pairs of legs

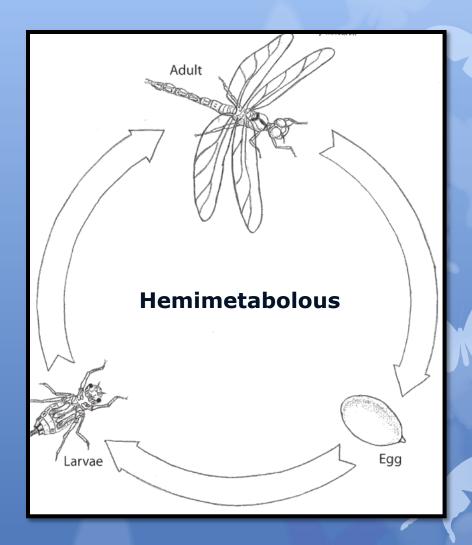


# **Insect Orders**

- 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
- O Holometabolous: complete metamorphosis









- Springtails
- Ametabolous

### Orthoptera

- Grasshoppers, crickets
- Paurometabolous

### O Isoptera

- Termites
- Paurometabolous

### • Hemiptera

- True bugs
- paurometabolous









### O Homoptera

- Aphids, scales
- Paurometabolous

### O Coleoptera

- Beetles, weevils
- Holometabolous

### • Lepidoptera

- Butterflies & moths
- Holometabolous

### O Hymenoptera

- Wasps , bees, ants
- holometabolous









### O Diptera

- Flies
- Holometabolous

### Siphonoptera

- Fleas
- Holometabolous

### O Dermaptera

- Earwigs
- Paurometabolous

### Thysanura

- Silverfish
- ametabolous









### O Ephemeroptera

- Mayflies
- Hemimetabolous

### Odonata

- Dragonflies & damselflies
- Hemimetabolous

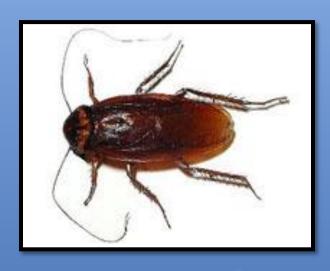
### O Blattaria

- Cockroaches
- Paurometabolous

### Phasmida

- Walking sticks
- Paurometabolous









### • Mantodea

- Mantids
- Paurometabolous

### O Phthiraptera

- Lice
- Paurometabolous

### O Thysanoptera

- Thrips
- Hybrid between holo- and pauro-metabolous

### Neuroptera

- Lacewings, antlions
- Holometabolous











# **Head: Antennae**

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



ARISTATE

(Blow flies)



LAMELLATE

(June Beetle)



SERRATE

(Click beetle)



FLABELLATE

(Cedar beetle)



**MONILIFORM** 

(Bark beetles)



GENICULATE

(Chalcid)



PLUMOSE

(Mosquitoes)



PECTINATE

(Fire-colored Beetle)



STYLATE

(Snipe fly)



CLAVATE

(Ladybird Beetle)

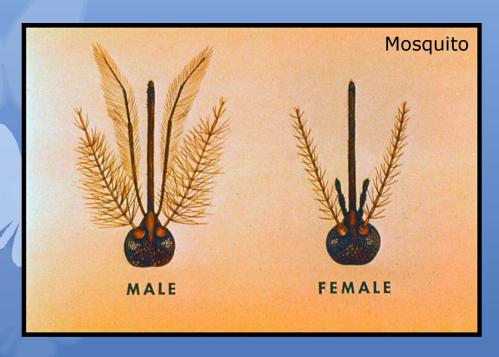


### SETACEOUS

(Dragonfly)



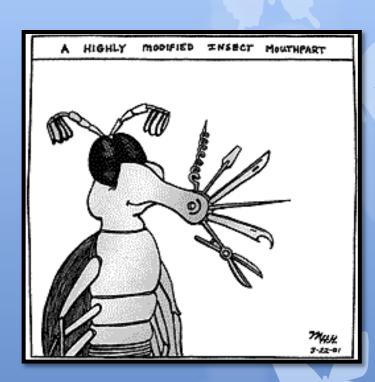






# **Head: Mouthparts**

- 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





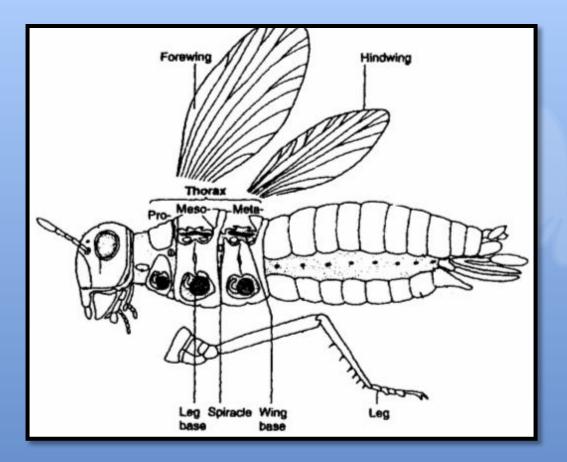


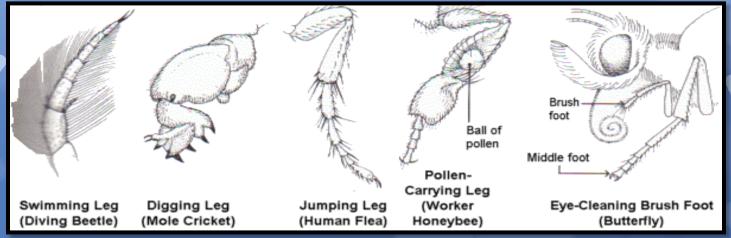




# **Thorax**

- 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









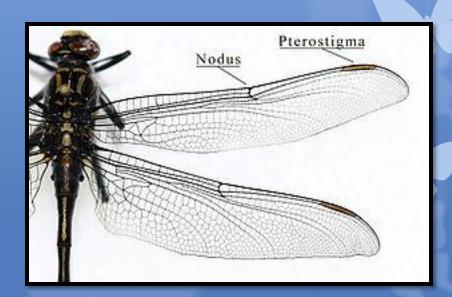




# Wings

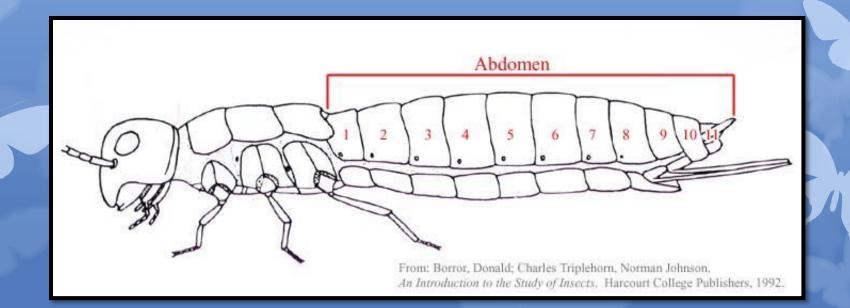
- Are the outgrowths of the body wall
- Venation can vary dramatically from species to species and is often used as a means for identification
- Most of insect orders end with "ptera", which is greek for "with wings"
- Can be covered with fine hairs or scales (moths & butterflies) or bare (dragonflies)





# **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**







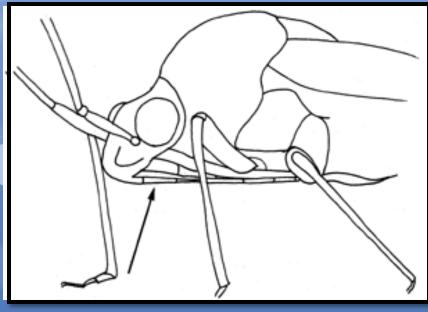








































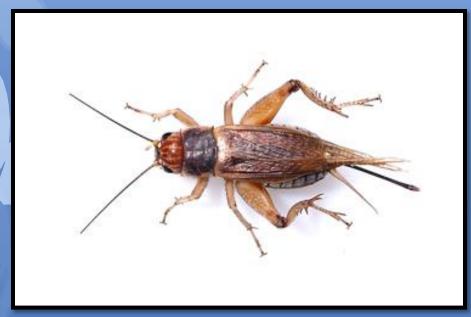




























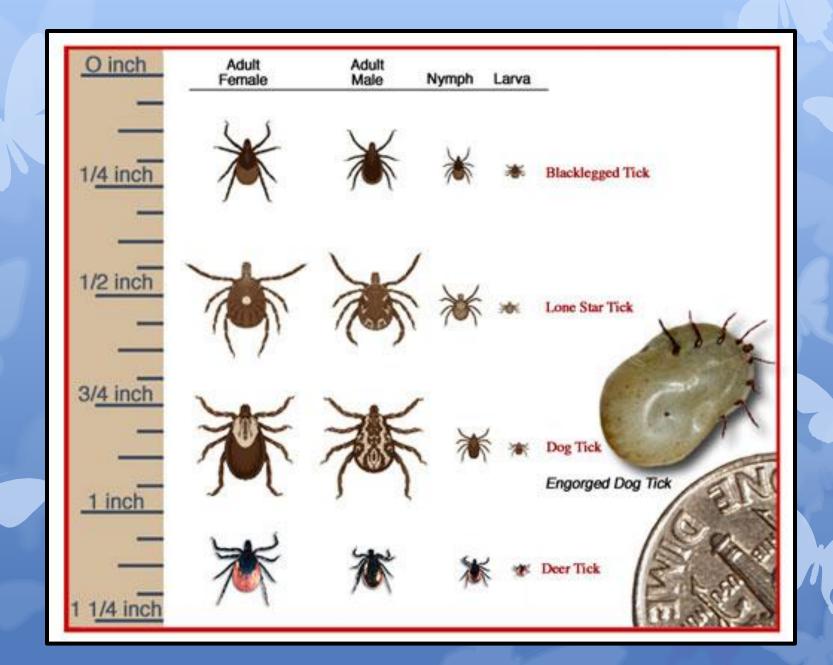




















## **Insect Injury**

- Chewing insects
  - Chew off portions of plant
- Piercing-sucking insects
  - Pierce skin and suck up plant juices
- Internal feeders
  - Gain entrance into plant and feed on the inside
- Subterranean insects
  - Attack plant from below the soil surface

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



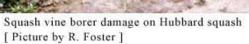




























## **Beneficial insects**

- 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



















Janet Spencer
Extension Agent, ANR
Isle of Wight County
757-365-6262
jaashle2@vt.edu