

Arachnid & Insect Classification

I. Subphylum Chelicerata (Chelicerates)

1. List two characteristics of Chelicerates.

1. Lack antennae 2. 6 pairs of appendages

2. Approximately how many Arachnid species exist worldwide?

100,000+ species

3. List four characteristics used to identify species of the Class Arachnida.

1. Two distinct body regions (Cephalothorax, abdomen)
 2. 4 pairs of legs
 3. Lack wings + antennae
 4. Simple eyes (called ocelli)

4. List four characteristics & examples of the Order Araneae (Spiders).

1. 2 Body Regions (Cephalothorax, Abdomen) 2. Soft, unsegmented abdomen
 3. Harder cephalothorax (8 legs) 4. 8 simple eyes

Examples: Orb Weavers, Cobweb Spiders, Trapdoor Spiders
Wolf Spiders, Jumping Spiders, Tarantulas

5. List four characteristics & examples of the Order Scorpiones (Scorpions).

1. Possess 8 legs 2. Cephalothorax + Erectile Tail
 3. Tail possesses stinger 4. Pair of median eyes

Examples: Emperor Scorpion, Red Scorpion, Sand Scorpion

6. List four characteristics & examples of the Order Acari (Ticks / Mites).

1. Body not segmented 2. Usually 4 pairs of legs
 3. Adapted mouth parts (biting, stinging, sucking) 4. 0-5 eyes

Examples: Chicken Mite, Chiggers, House Dust Mite
Brown Dog Tick, Deer Tick, Rocky Mountain Wood Tick

7. List three characteristics & examples of the Order Opiliones (Harvestmen).

1. Long legs + body size 2. No venom glands 3. No silk glands

Examples: Harvestmen, Daddy Longlegs, Harvesters

Join at narrow waist (pedicel)

II. Subphylum Uniramia

1. List four characteristics of the **Class Chilipoda** (Centipedes).

8,000 species

- 1 pair legs per segment
- Highly venomous
- 30-354 legs
- Odd number of leg pairs

2. List four characteristics of the **Class Diplopoda** (Millipedes).

12,000 species

- Double-legged segments
- Record = 750 legs
- 20+ segments
- Elongated cylindrical or flattened bodies

3. Approximately how many described species of insects have been identified worldwide?

950,000 - 1,000,000 species

4. List six characteristics of the **Class Insecta** (Insects).

- Chitinous Exoskeleton
- 3-part body
- 3-pairs jointed legs
- Compound Eyes
- 1-pair antennae
- Most diverse animal group

5. List characteristics, importance, & examples of members of the **Order Blattodea**.

7,000 species

- soft-bodied, pale (Termites =)
 - harder, dark (Cockroaches =)
 - Complex social orders
- Importance: Importance food source (arthropods, birds, mammals)
- Examples: Cockroaches, Termites

6. List characteristics, importance, & examples of members of the **Order Coleoptera**.

350,000 species

- Largest order
 - Elytra = protective forewing covering
 - Forewing = hardened
- Importance: Predacious / Plant-feeding species
- Examples: Weevils, Lady Beetles, Longhorned beetle, Leaf Beetles

7. List characteristics, importance, & examples of members of the **Order Dermaptera**.

2,000 species

- Pair of forceps-like pincers
 - Forewings = short (rarely used)
 - Membranous wings = folded
- Importance: Homeowner nuisance = unsightly in large #
- Examples: Common Earwig, European Earwig, Striped Earwig

8. List characteristics, importance, & examples of members of the **Order Diptera**.

120,000 species

- Single pair of flying wings
 - 2nd pair of wings = little knobs
 - Many nuisance species
- Importance: Vectors of Disease (Sleeping Sickness, Malaria, Dengue Fever)
- Examples: Flies, Mosquitoes, Gnats

9. List characteristics, importance, & examples of members of the **Order Ephemeroptera**.

1. Long tails 2. Wings = don't fold flat 3. Triangular wings

Importance: Bioindicators of pollution / Fly fishing models

Examples: Mayflies, Shedflies, Fishflies

3,000
species

10. List characteristics, importance, & examples of members of the **Order Hemiptera**.

1. Forewings = thick / leathery 2. Beaked 3. Piercing, sucking mouthparts

Importance: Economically damaging / Predators / Disease vectors

Examples: Mass Bugs, Shield Bugs, Assassin Bug

60,000
species

11. List characteristics, importance, & examples of members of the **Order Homoptera**.

1. Similar mouthparts to Hemiptera (shorter) 2. 2 Pairs of Wings 3. Some = no wings

Importance: Economically damaging / Vector of plant diseases

Examples: Aphids, Leafhoppers, Cicadas, Planthoppers

22,000
species

12. List characteristics, importance, & examples of members of the **Order Hymenoptera**.

1. Membranous Wings 2. Chewing mouthparts 3. Constricted Abdomen

Importance: Pollinators, Predators, Economically damaging

Examples: Bees, Ants, Wasps, Sawflies

100,000
species

13. List characteristics, importance, & examples of members of the **Order Lepidoptera**.

1. Feathery, hooked, or clubbed antennae 2. Cocoon or chrysalis pupa 3. Stout or slender body

Importance: Economically damaging of crops, stored food, fabrics

Examples: Butterflies, Skippers, Moths

120,000
species

14. List characteristics, importance, & examples of members of the **Order Megaloptera**.

1. Pleated hindwings 2. Tusk-like mandibles = attract females 3. Large, clumsy wings

Importance: Predacious scavengers

Examples: Alderflies, Dobsonflies, Fishflies

300
species

15. List characteristics, importance, & examples of members of the **Order Neuroptera**.

1. 4 membranous wings 2. Highly veined wings 3. Chewing mouthparts

Importance: Predacious / Biological population control agent

Examples: Lacewings, Antlions, Mantidflies

6,000
species

16. List characteristics, importance, & examples of members of the **Order Odonata**.

5,000
Species

1. 2 pairs elongated wings 2. Long-bodied 3. Good vision

Importance: Predators of mosquitoes, gnats, flies

Examples: Dragonflies, Damselflies

17. List characteristics, importance, & examples of members of the **Order Orthoptera**.

20,000
Species

1. Jumping Insects 2. 2 veined wing pairs 3. Forewings - long, narrow

Importance: Damaging plant feeders / Large migration numbers

Examples: Grasshoppers, Katydid, Crickets, Mantids, Walking Sticks

18. List characteristics, importance, & examples of members of the **Order Plecoptera**.

3,500
Species

1. Braided wings 2. Robust legs with claws 3. Long paired cerci on abdomen tips

Importance: Water quality indicators / Some lifespan entirely aquatic

Examples: Common Stoneflies, Spring Stoneflies, Stoneflies, Rolled-winged Stoneflies, Small Winter Stoneflies

19. List characteristics, importance, & examples of members of the **Order Siphonaptera**.

2,500
Species

1. Flightless 2. External Blood Parasites 3. Mouthparts = piercing, sucking

Importance: Animal Pest (mammals, birds) / Disease Vector

Examples: Cat Fleas, Dog Fleas, Human Fleas, Chicken Fleas

20. List characteristics, importance, & examples of members of the **Order Thysanoptera**.

6,000
Species

1. Minute-sized (small) 2. Fringed wings 3. Asymmetrical, sucking mouthparts

Importance: Commercial Crop Pests / Pollinators / Predators → mites

Examples: Greenhouse Thrips, Western Flower Thrips, Galadialar Thrips

21. List characteristics, importance, & examples of members of the **Order Trichoptera**.

14,500
Species

1. Aquatic Larvae 2. Protective Portable Casings 3. Some small + moth-like

Importance: Water Quality Indicator / Prey (birds, bats, trout)

Examples: Caddisflies, Sedgeflies, Railflies