

Insect Orders, Meanings, Common Names

ORDER	MEANING	COMMON NAMES
COLLEMBOLA	<i>coll</i> = "glue" <i>-embol</i> = "peg" (refers to the colophore an adhesive organ)	springtails
MICROCORYPHIA	micro = small <i>-coryphia</i> = head	jumping brisletails
THYSANURA	thysan = "bristle or fringe" <i>-ura</i> = "tail" (refers to the bristle-like tail appendages)	silverfish, firebrats
EPHEMEROPTERA	ephemero = "but a day" <i>-ptera</i> = "wing" (refers to fact most adults live only a day or short time)	mayflies
ODONATA	odon = "tooth" (refers to the toothed mandibles)	dragonflies, damselflies
ORTHOPTERA	ortho = "straight" <i>-ptera</i> = "wing" (refers to the long, straight front wings)	grasshoppers, crickets, katydids
PHASMATODEA	phasma = "an apparition or phantom" (refers to the resemblance of many species to sticks or leaves)	walking sticks
DERMAPTERA	derm = "skin" <i>-ptera</i> = wing (refers to front wings (elytra) are skin or leather-like)	earwigs
PLECOPTERA	pleco = "folded or plaited" <i>-ptera</i> = "wing" (refers to the pleated or folded hind wings)	stoneflies
ISOPTERA	iso = "equal" <i>-ptera</i> = "wing" (refers to wings which are all equal in size & shape)	termites
MANTODEA	<i>mantis</i> = "prophet", <i>eidos</i> = "form" or "type" (refers to the prayer like posture of a prophet)	praying mantis, mantids
BLATTODEA	blatta = "cockroach"	cockroaches
HEMIPTERA	hemi = "half" <i>-ptera</i> = "wing" now includes (Homoptera) (refers to the front wing which is half leathery and half membranous)	true bugs, aphids cicadas, hoppers
THYSANOPTERA	thysan = "fringe" <i>-ptera</i> = "wing" (refers to the fringe-like wings)	thrips
PSOCOPTERA	psoc = "rub small" <i>-ptera</i> = "wings" (refers to the gnawing habits of these insects)	psocids, booklice, barklice
PHTHIRAPTERA	chewing lice and sucking lice have been combined	lice
COLEOPTERA	coleo = "sheath" <i>-ptera</i> = "wing" refers to hardened front wings that form a protective cover	beetles, weevils
NEUROPTERA	neuro = "nerve" <i>-ptera</i> = "wing" (refers to the network of numerous veins in the wings)	lacewings, antlions, snakeflies
HYMENOPTERA	hymen = "membrane" <i>-ptera</i> = "wing" (refers to the mostly membranous wings with few veins)	bees, wasp, ants
TRICHOPTERA	tricho = "hair" <i>-ptera</i> = "wing" (refers to the many hairs which cover the wings' surface)	caddisflies
LEPIDOPTERA	lepido = "scale" <i>-ptera</i> = "wing" (refers to the many scales which cover the wings surface)	butterflies, moths
SIPHONAPTERA	siphon = "tube" <i>-aptera</i> = "wing" (refers to the beak-like sucking mouth parts & no wings)	fleas
MECOPTERA	meco = "long" <i>-ptera</i> = "wing"	scorpionflies
DIPTERA	di = "two" <i>-ptera</i> = "wing" (refers to the fact that they only have one pair of wings)	flies