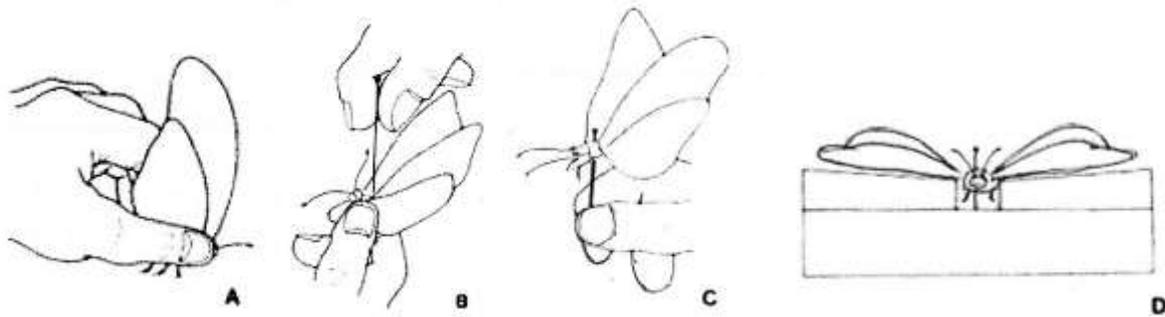




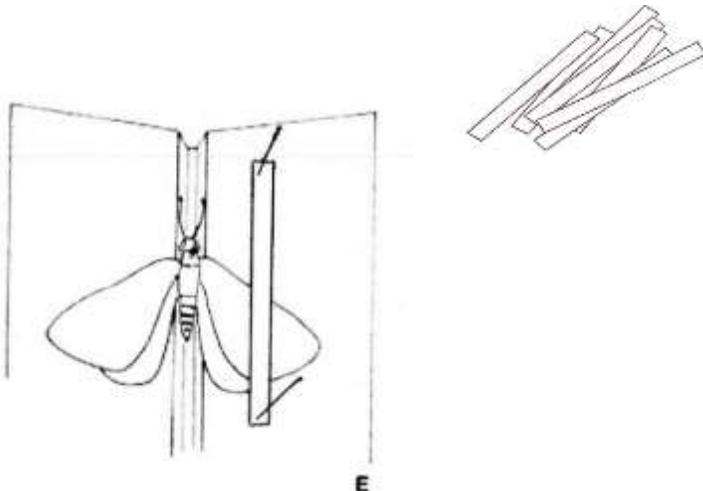
## How to Spread Wings

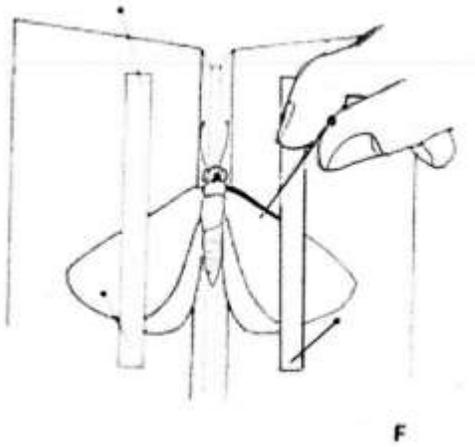
Butterflies and moths must be handled carefully to avoid rubbing scales off the wings. Before spreading a butterfly it must first be pinned.

Grasp it by the thorax from underneath the body and insert a pin through the thorax from above the body (A, B). See the dot on top illustration above. Push the pin through the body so the butterfly is  $\frac{3}{8}$ " below the pin head (C). Place insect in the groove of a spreading board (D) and have a supply of  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch wide paper strips ready. Pins placed in the groove on either side of it, or crisscrossed underneath the abdomen will prevent the insect from twisting and/or dropping.

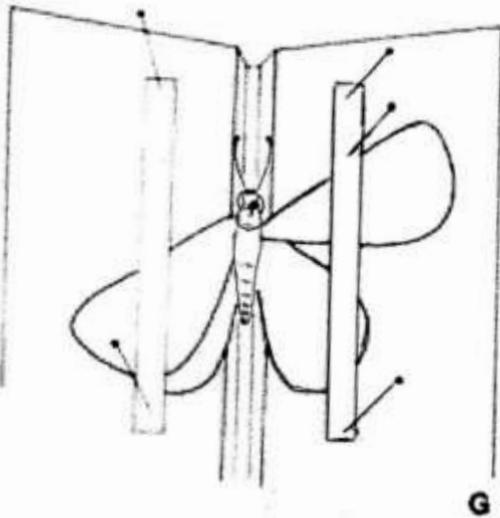


1. Pin paper strips ( $\frac{1}{8}$ " wide) over the wings on each side. Some people place the paper stripes closer to the insect's body than the picture shows. This is a learning process.

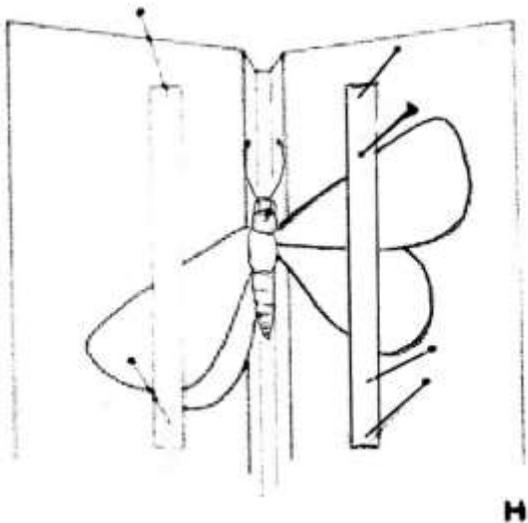




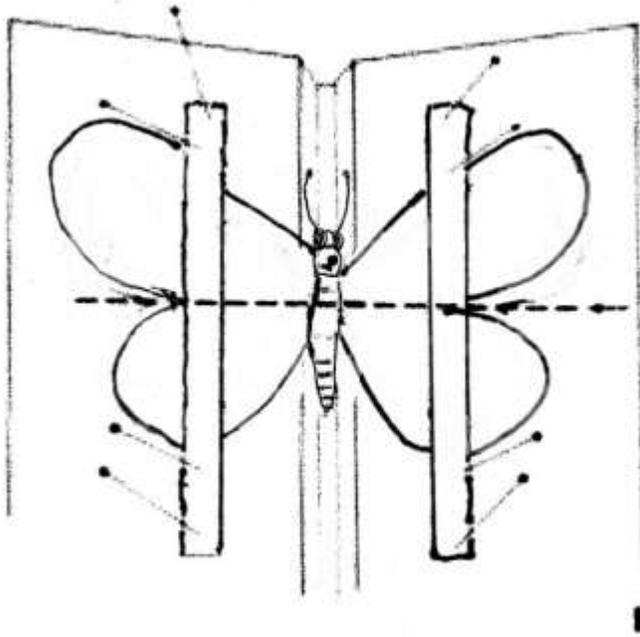
2. Position the front wing with a thin #1 size insect pin (F). Place the pin behind the heavy vein near the front edge of the wing. Don't push the pin through the wing. This leaves a hole.



3. When the lower edge of the front wing is slightly more than at a right angle to the body insert the pin through the paper strip just above the upper edge (G). Place the pin in the stripe as close as possible to the wing, without being in the wing, to help prevent the wing slipping as the specimen dries. Repeat the procedure on the other front wing.



4. For the hind wings again use a thin #1 size insect pin behind the heavy wing vein to position the wing. Do not push the pin through the wing. Adjust the hind wing so there is a very slight gap between the hind and front wings. Repeat for the other hind wing. See (I) for the orientation of all four wings.



5. Next orient the antennae to a symmetrical position and hold them in place with a pin alongside them.
  
6. The addition of a wide paper strip across the wings will keep them flat until they dry. Drying time depends on insect size and room humidity; usually 4-7 days.
  
7. Dragonflies and broad winged damselflies should be spread in a similar way as the butterflies and moths. Spread only the left wing only for grasshoppers.