



Dichotomous Key to the Insects



Directions: Use the dichotomous classification key below to identify each of the insects that belong to the class *Insecta*. Follow these directions to learn how to use a dichotomous key.

- Carefully observe the characteristics of the first insect.
- Read the two choices in step #1 of the dichotomous key.
- You must choose the correct choice for the insect you are trying to classify.
- Once you have made your choice, follow the directions to move to the next appropriate line of the key.
- Continue to make the correct choices for each insect until you have determined its correct name.

Dichotomous Key to the Class "Insecta"

- Insect has wings that extend outward from the body Go to 2
 - Insect has wings folded tightly against abdomen or no wings Go to 5
- Insect has one pair of wings Go to 3
 - Insect has two pairs of wings *Cordulia aenea*
- Legs are longer than body *Tipula abdominalis*
 - Legs are shorter than body Go to 4
- Insect has rounded abdomen *Musca domestica*
 - Insect has sharp, pointed abdomen *Vespula squamosa*
- Wings are folded over the abdomen Go to 8
 - No wings are present Go to 6
- Abdominal appendages are present Go to 7
 - Abdominal appendages are absent *Tapinoma sessile*
- Abdominal pincers are present *Forficula auricularia*
 - Three abdominal appendages are present *Lepisma saccharina*
- Antennae much shorter than body length Go to 9
 - Antennae as long as body *Blattella vaga*
- Pincers present on head region *Lucanus capreolus*
 - No pincers present on head Go to 10
- Large and rounded abdomen *Coccinella septempunctata*
 - Long and slender abdomen Go to 11
- Front legs are adapted for grasping *Mantis religiosa*
 - Front legs are adapted for walking *Stethophyma gracile*



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Dichotomous Key to the Class Insecta



1. 	2. 	3. 
4. 	5. 	6. 
7. 	8. 	9. 
10. 	11. 	12. 

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