



Royal
Entomological
Society

British Insects

► Kingdom – Animalia ► Phylum – Arthropoda ► SubPhylum – Hexapoda ► Class – Insecta

There are about 24,000 insect species known in Britain, 72,000 in Europe and 1,000,000 on Earth.

Order – Archaeognatha Bristletails

1 Family, 7 species



Jumping bristletail
Petrobius maritimus
13 mm

Order – Zygentoma Silverfish and Firebrats

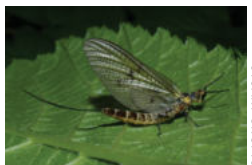
1 Family, 2 species



Firebrat
Thermobia domestica
3 mm

Order – Ephemeroptera Mayflies

10 Families, 51 species



Mayfly
Ephemera danica
Female. 20 mm

Order – Odonata Dragonflies and Damselflies

9 Families, 49 species



Broad-bodied chaser
dragonfly
Libellula depressa
Male. 42 mm
Banded demoiselle



Calopteryx splendens
Male. 45 mm

Order – Dermaptera Earwigs

4 Families, 7 species



Earwig
Forficula auricularia
Female. 14 mm

Order – Dictyoptera Cockroaches, Termites and Mantids

5 Families, 11 species



Cockroach
Ectobius lapponicus
9 mm

Order – Orthoptera Grasshoppers, Crickets and Bush Crickets

10 Families, 33 species
Woodland grasshopper



Omocentus rufipes
Male. 16 mm



Great green bush cricket
Tettigonia viridissima
Female. 65 mm including
ovipositor

Order – Phasmida Stick Insects

2 Families, 4 species



Mediterranean stick insect
Bacillus rossius
85 mm

Order – Embioptera Webspinners

1 Family, 1 species



Webspinner
Aposthonia ceylonica
6.5 mm

Order – Plecoptera Stoneflies

7 Families, 34 species



Willowfly
Euleuctra geniculata
Female. 10 mm

Order – Hemiptera True Bugs

63 Families, 1830 species



Hawthorn shield bug
Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale
14 mm

Order – Psocodea Parasitic Lice, Booklice and Barklice

36 Families, 650 species



Parasitic louse of swans
and ducks
Trintoton anserinum



5 mm
Barklouse
Psococerasis gibbosa
7 mm

Order – Thysanoptera Thrips

3 Families, 179 species



Western flower thrips
Frankliniella occidentalis
1.5 mm

Order – Coleoptera Beetles

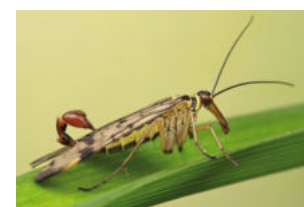
112 Families, 4000 species



Ground beetle
Pterostichus niger
19 mm

Order – Mecoptera Scorpionflies

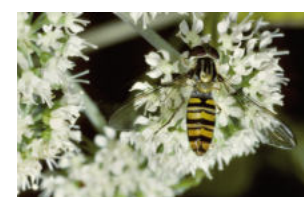
2 Families, 4 species



Scorpionfly
Panorpa communis
Male. 15 mm

Order – Diptera True Flies

103 Families, 7000 species



Marmalade hover fly
Episyrphus balteatus
Female. 10 mm



Flesh fly
Sarcophaga carnaria
Female. 13 mm



Mosquito
Culiseta annulata,
Female. 9 mm

Order – Hymenoptera Ants, Bees and Wasps

57 Families, 7000 species



Wood ant
Formica rufa
Female worker. 10 mm



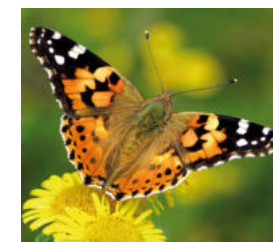
White-tailed bumblebee
Bombus lucorum
Female worker. 15 mm



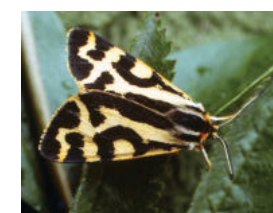
Ichneumonid wasp
Rhyssa persuasoria
Female. 80 mm including
ovipositor

Order – Lepidoptera Butterflies and Moths

72 Families, 2570 species



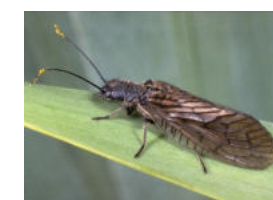
Painted lady butterfly
Vanessa cardui
Female. 25 mm
Wood tiger moth



Parasemia plantaginis
Male. 15 mm

Order – Megaloptera Alderflies

1 Family, 3 species



Alderfly
Sialis lutaria
13 mm

Order – Neuroptera Lacewings

6 Families, 69 species



Lacewing
Chrysoperla carnea
15 mm

Order – Raphidioptera Snakeflies

1 Family, 4 species



Snakefly
Subilla confinis
Female. 15 mm

Order – Siphonaptera Fleas

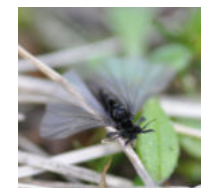
7 Families, 62 species



Human flea
Pulex irritans
Male. 3 mm

Order – Strepsiptera Stylops

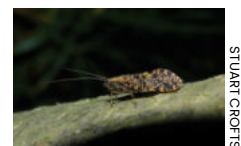
4 Families, 10 species



Stylops
Stylops melittae
Male. 5 mm

Order – Trichoptera Caddisflies or Sedgeflies

19 Families, 198 species



Caddisfly
Philopotamus montanus
12 mm