

Systematic Method to Identify Insect Orders

Keys are often used in identifying insects. Using a flow chart system helps to quickly identify insects and place them in the correct orders. To begin, first identify what type of wings the insect has. There are three main classes:

1. Wings are modified, front wings are hard and leathery and cover hind wings.
2. All wings are obvious and membranous, but sometimes they are covered with scales or hairs.
3. Wings are entirely absent.

Then, proceed through the flow chart identifying characteristics until the correct order is found. A rectangular box indicates an order and a rounded box indicates that further identification is needed.





