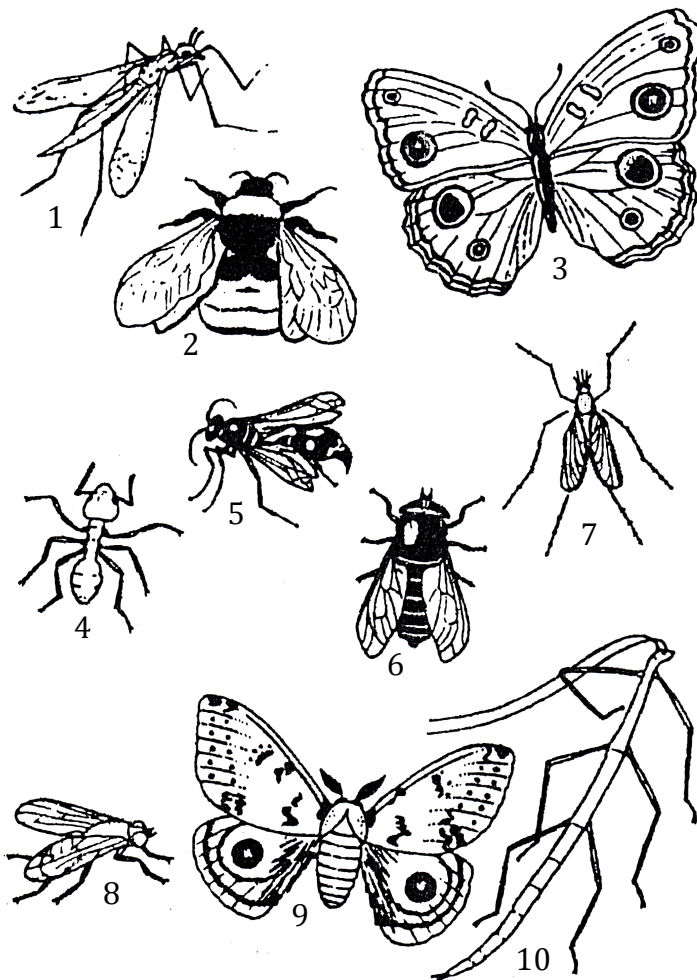


Classifying Insects

A dichotomous key, also called a taxonomic key or a classification key, is a device useful in classifying. *Dichotomous* (dy KAHT uh muhs) comes from the Greek word meaning “in two.” In a dichotomous key, two opposite characteristics are compared. When you use the key to classify an insect, always start with numbers 1a and 1b. If the characteristic described in 1a fits the insect you are “keying,” go on to the numbered step indicated at the end of the line. Continue keying the insect until you find its name.

Directions: Use the dichotomous key to identify the insects shown in the illustrations. Choose one insect and follow the key until you have named the insect. Put the insect’s name on the line provided. Repeat the keying procedure for all of the insects.



INSECT CLASSIFICATION	
Number	Name
1	_____
2	_____
3	_____
4	_____
5	_____
6	_____
7	_____
8	_____
9	_____
10	_____

- 1 a. Wings present..... go to 2
- b. Wings absent..... go to 9
- 2 a. One pair of wings..... go to 3
- b. Two pairs of wings..... go to 6
- 3 a. Long body, legs long and slender..... go to 4
- b. Rounded body, short legs..... go to 5

- 4 a. Wings transparent, lie flat against body when at rest..... mosquito
- b. Wings transparent, extended up and away from body..... crane fly
- 5 a. Wings longer than body, rounded at ends; small
 round head..... fruit fly
- b. Wings almost the same length as body, slightly
 tapered at ends; flat, wide head..... horse fly
- 6 a. Wings broad and flat, covered with scales..... go to 7
- b. Wings transparent and narrow..... go to 8
- 7 a. Antennae long and thin, expanded at tip..... butterfly
- b. Antennae feathery, pointed at tip..... moth
- 8 a. Abdomen broad and rounded, many bristles..... bumblebee
- b. Abdomen slender, pointed at end..... wasp
- 9 a. Twiglike body with long, slender legs..... walking stick
- b. Large head, narrow “waist,” rounded abdomen with
 pointed end..... ant