

INTRODUCTION TO THE INSECT WORLD

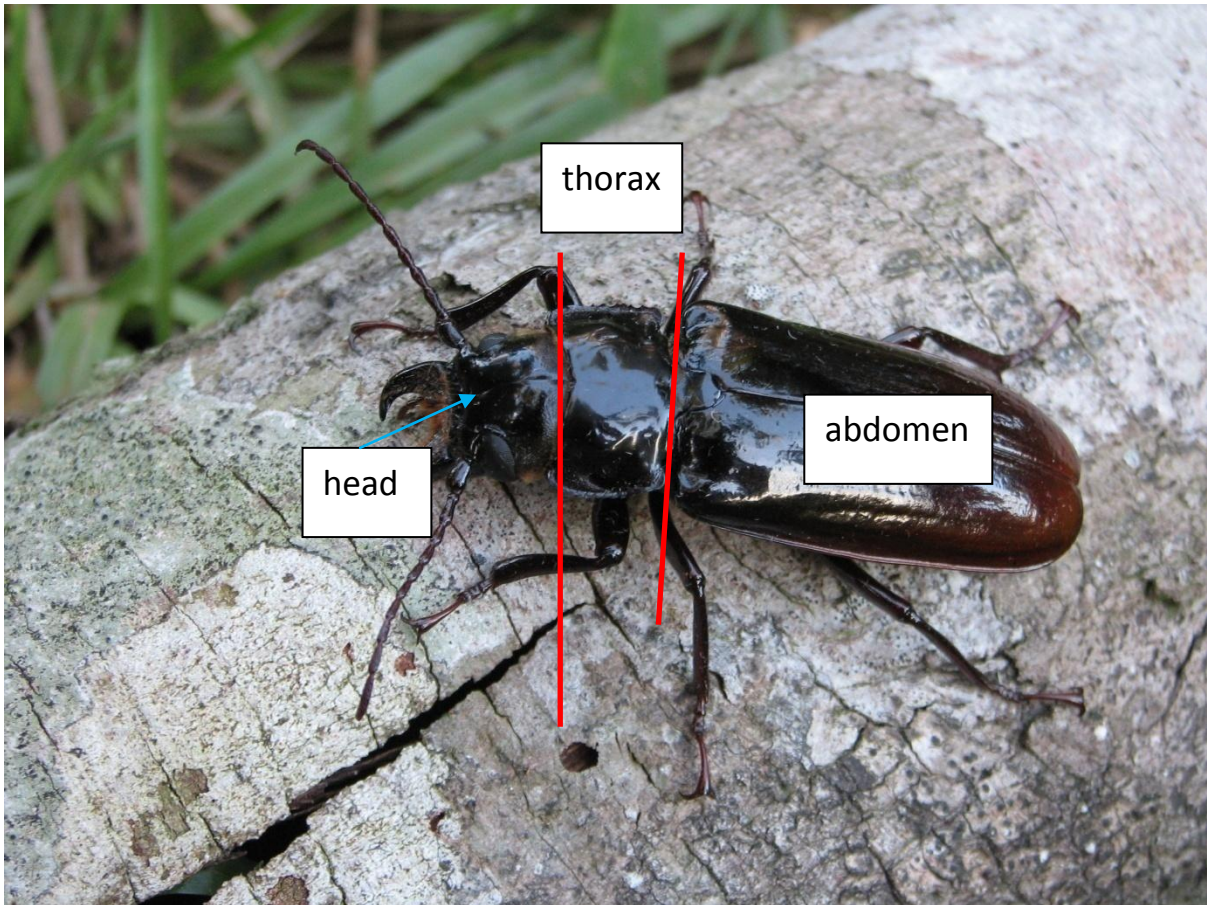
Insects, along with animals are as diverse as spiders, centipedes, crayfish and they all belong to a large group (or phylum) in the animal world called Arthropoda.





All Arthropoda have:

- ✓ an exoskeleton (a hard outer skin) which protects their soft body tissues, provides an attachment for muscles and determines their appearance
- ✓ a segmented body and pairs of limbs
- ✓ Bilateral symmetry, eg: the right and left sides look alike

Insects make up the class Insecta and are distinguished from other arthropods by certain structural features. Adult insects all have:

- ✓ Six legs, usually used for walking or running
- ✓ Three body parts – the head, thorax and abdomen
- ✓ Most but not all have two pairs of wings
- ✓ Antennae which are used to touch, smell and to feel temperature and humidity.



	INSECTA	CRUSTACEA	ARACHNIDA	MYRIAPODA
				
Common names:	Insects: Moths, Wasps, Beetles, Flies, Ants etc.	Prawns, Crabs, Slaters, etc	Spiders, Ticks, Scorpions, etc.	Centipedes and Millipedes.
LEGS	6	10+	8	Many
ANTENNAE	2	4	0	2
BODY SEGMENTS	3	2 or 3	1 or 2	2
COMPOUND EYES	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
No. of Species	More than 10 million	More than 30,000	More than 40,000	More than 10,000