

A Few Entomological Terms Defined

Term	Definition	Applies to:
abdomen	The posterior and usually longest of the 3 principal body segments	General
anal lobe	Lobe in the posterior basal part of wing	Wing
anal vein	Longitudinal unbranched veins extending from base of wing to outer margin below the cubitus	Wing
antenna	Pair of segmented appendages located on the head above mouthparts, below and between eyes; plural = antennae	Head
antenodal crossvein	Small cross veins along the basal portion of the front edge of wings	Odonata
anterior	In front; before	General
arculus	Small crossvein near base of wing	Odonata
arista	Large bristle, usually dorsally located, on apical antennal segment	Diptera
aristate	Last segment enlarged and bearing a conspicuous dorsal bristle	Antennal forms
arolium	A cushion-like pad on the tarsi of many insects, one of the lobes of the pulvillus	General
arolium	The terminal pad between the claws	Orthoptera
auct., auctorum	Of authors	Latin Abbreviations
basitarsus	Basal (1st) segment of tarsus; segment connecting to tibia	Leg
beak	The jointed structure or rostrum covering the maxilla or trophi in Hemiptera	Hemiptera
book gills	Respiratory apparatus consisting of leaflike folds	Xiphosura (Horseshoe crab)
c., circa	About, near	Latin Abbreviations
calypter	One or two small lobes at base of wing, just above haltere	Diptera

Term	Definition	Applies to:
caudal	Refers to tip of abdomen, toward the tail, posterior end of body	General
cenchrus	Pl. cenchri; minute, often white marks or membranous spaces on the metanotum of some Hymenoptera	Hymenoptera
cercus	Segmented paired appendages located at tip of abdomen (plural = cerci)	General
cf., cfr.,	Compare	Latin Abbreviations
clavate	Clublike, enlarged at tip (e.g. clavate antennae)	General
clavus	Oblong or triangular anal portion of front wing	Hemiptera, Homoptera
claw	A hollow, sharp organ, generally paired, at the end of the insect leg	General
clubbed	Segments increasing in diameter distally	Antennal forms
clubbed - (capitate)	Terminal segments abruptly enlarged to form a club	Antennal forms
clubbed - (clavate)	Gradual increase in diameter of segments	Antennal forms
clubbed - (lamellate)	Terminal segments expanded laterally to form rounded or oval platelike lobes	Antennal forms
clypeus	Plate on face above mouthparts, between labrum and frons	Head
collophore	Tubelike structure located on ventral side of 1st abdominal segment	Collembola
compound eye	Composed of many elements or ommatidia	General
corbicula	A concave, smooth space, edged by a fringe of hairs arising from the margins of the posterior tibia in bees, forming pollen basket	Hymenoptera
corium	Elongate, usually thickened, basal portion of front wing	Hemiptera
cornicle	Tubelike structure located dorsally on abdomen	Aphids

Term	Definition	Applies to:
costa	Longitudinal wing vein, usually enlarged and along the leading (anterior) edge of the wing	Wing
coxa	Basal segment of leg (plural = coxae)	Leg
cubitus vein	The 5th longitudinal vein of the wing, extending from wing base and usually 2-branched before reaching outer wing margin	Wing
cuneus	Small triangular area at end of embolium of hemelytra	Hemiptera
distal	Near or toward the free end of any appendage; that part of segment farthest from the body	General
dorsum	Top surface of body	General
elytron	Thickened front pair of wings	Coleoptera, Dermaptera, Hemiptera
embolium	Narrow sclerite extending along anterior margin of hemelytra, from base to cuneus or membrane	Hemiptera
embolium	Narrow piece of corium, along costal margin	Hemiptera
empodium	Padlike or bristlelike structure at tip of last tarsal segment between claws	Diptera
epi-	Prefix, above	General
epimeron	Area of thoracic pleuron posterior to pleural suture	General
epiphysis	A lappet-like process covering an excavation on the foretibia of many Lepidoptera	Lepidoptera
epiproct	Supra-anal plate; pygidium	General
epistomal sulcus	The frontoclypeal furrow	Head
f., forma	Form, shape	Latin Abbreviations
femur	Large leg segment located near base of leg; the 3rd leg segment, located between trochanter and tibia	Leg
filiform	Threadlike, segments nearly uniform in diameter, elongate, usually cylindrical	Antennal forms
filiform	Threadlike, hairlike (see also antennae)	General

Term	Definition	Applies to:
flagellomere	Segment of flagellum	General
flagellum	Distal segments of antenna after pedicel	Antenna
fontanelle	Small, depressed pale spot on front of head between eyes	Isoptera
frenulum	Bristle or group of bristles at humeral angle of hind wing	Lepidoptera
frons	Front of head between epistomal suture and frontal sutures, includes median ocellus	Head
furcula	Forked springing apparatus	Collembola
gen. nov., g.n., genus novum	New genus	Latin Abbreviations
gena	Lateral portion of head below and behind eyes, the "cheek"	Head
geniculate	Elbowed; first segment long, following segments smaller, going off at an angle from the first	Antennal forms
genitalia	All of the genital structures collectively	General
halter	Modified wing; usually a small knobbed structure on 3rd thoracic segment (Diptera) or modified front wing in Strepsiptera	Diptera, Strepsiptera
head	Most anterior body region; with eyes, antennae, mouthparts	General
hemelytron	Front pair of wings in Hemiptera, usually with a thickened basal region	Hemiptera
humeral angle	Basal anterior angle of or portion of the wing	General
humerus	Shoulder, anterior lateral angle of elytra	Coleoptera
hypognathous	With head and mouthparts located ventrally when viewed from above	Head
hypopleuron	Plate on thorax above hind coxae	Diptera
hypostoma	Portion of the head included between the antennae, eyes and mouth	Diptera
id., idem	The same	Latin Abbreviations

Term	Definition	Applies to:
in litt., in letteris	In correspondence or letter	Latin Abbreviations
jugum	Sclerite of the head	Hemiptera, Homoptera
jugum	Lobelike process at base of front wing, overlaps hind wing	Lepidoptera
labial	Referring to labium, mouthpart similar to lower lip of vertebrates	Head
labium	Mouthpart, lower lip	Head
labrum	Upper lip, below clypeus	Head
lamellate	Containing some enlarged, flattened segments	General
lateral	Relating, pertaining, or attached to the side	General
loc. cit., loco citato	Work cited (includes page references)	Latin Abbreviations
mandible	Jaw, anterior pair of mouthparts	Head
maxilla	Paired mouthparts posterior to mandibles	Head
media vein	Fourth of the longitudinal veins, extending from base through approx. middle of wing, not more than 4-branched	Wing
medial	Referring to, or at the middle	General
mesonotum	Dorsal portion of second thoracic segment	Thorax
mesopleuron	Lateral plate of mesonotum (dorsal region of second thoracic segment)	Thorax
moniliform	Like a string of beads	Antennal forms
moniliform	Beadlike, with rounded segment (see also antennae)	General
mystax	A patch of hair or bristles above the mouth, on the lower part of the hypostoma above the vibrissae	Diptera
n.g., nov. gen., novum genus	New genus	Latin Abbreviations
n.s., n.sp., nova species	New species	Latin Abbreviations
nasutiform	Head narrowing anteriorly into a snout-like projection	Isoptera
nodus	Strong cross vein near middle of costal border of wing	Odonata

Term	Definition	Applies to:
notopleuron	Area on thoracic dorsum, at lateral end of transverse suture	Diptera
occiput	That part of the head behind the vertex	Head
ocellus	A simple eye of insects or other arthropods; appearing to be small raised spots on top of head	Head
op. cit., op. c., opere citato	Work cited (not page reference)	Latin Abbreviations
palp	Small segmented appendages associated with mouthparts (maxillae or labium)	Head
paraproct	A pair of lobes bordering the anus laterally	General
parapsidae	Small sclerites on each side of the scutellum in Chalcids	Hymenoptera
parapsidal furrows	Longitudinal grooves on each side of the mesoscutum of Proctotrypidae separating the parapsides from the middle lobe	Hymenoptera
parapsidal grooves	Grooves or furrows on each side of the Chalcid scutellum	Hymenoptera
parapsides	Lateral pieces of meso-scutum, separated from mesal portion by parapsidal furrows	Hymenoptera
parapteron	Small sclerites, articulated to the dorsal extremity of the episternum, just below the wings; absent on thorax; = tegulae in Hymenoptera, patagia in Lepidoptera	General
pectinate	Comblike; most segments with long, slender processes	Antennal forms
pectinate	With branches like the teeth of a comb (see also antennae, claws)	General
pedicel	Second antennal segment	Antenna
pedicel	Stem of the abdomen, between thorax and gaster (ants)	Hymenoptera
pedicel	Greatly narrowed or restricted apparent 1st abdominal segment which connects the propodeum with the gaster in Hymenoptera	Hymenoptera

Term	Definition	Applies to:
pedunculated	Set on a stalk or peduncle; attached by a slender stalk or neck	General
petiole	Stalk or stemlike constriction of the abdomen to form attachment to thorax	Hymenoptera
pleural membrane	Membrane of the lateral pleurites	General
pleural suture	A suture on a thoracic pleuron extending from base of wing to base of coxa	General
pleuron	Lateral area of a thoracic segment	General
plumose	Feathery	Antennal forms
post-vertical bristles	In Diptera, in the middle of the upper part of the occiput	Diptera
posterior	Hinder, or hindmost; opposed to anterior	General
prepectus	Chitinized sclerite separating the pronotum from the tegulae	Hymenoptera
pretarsus	The terminal limb segment; in insects, comprising usually a pair of lateral claws and reduced median parts (arolium)	General
primaries	The anterior or forewings	Wing
pronotum	The dorsal section of prothorax; 1st segment of thorax	Thorax
propodeum	That part of thorax just above insertion of abdomen, really the first abdominal segment	Hymenoptera
propodium	Posterior portion of thorax, actually the 1st abdominal segment united with thorax	Hymenoptera
prothorax	First or anterior thoracic segment	Thorax
proximal	That part of an appendage nearest the body	General
ptilinal	Refers to ptilinum, a bladderlike structure that everts from top of head during emergence of adult flies	Diptera
radius vein	Third of the longitudinal veins caudad of subcosta, starting from base, no more than 5 branches	Wing

Term	Definition	Applies to:
reticulate	Like a network, sculptured	General
s.l., s. lat., sens. lat., sensu lato	In a broad sense	Latin Abbreviations
s.s., s. str., sens. str., sensu stricto	In the strict sense	Latin Abbreviations
scape	Basal segment of antenna	Antenna
scutellum	A triangular plate on back between bases of wings	Coleoptera, Hemiptera, Homoptera
serrate	Sawlike, segments in distal half triangular in shape	Antennal forms
setaceous	Bristlelike, segments becoming more slender distally	Antennal forms
setaceous	Bristlelike (see also antennae)	General
sp. nov., sp. n., species nova	New species	Latin Abbreviations
sp., species,	Species, singular	Latin Abbreviations
spiracle	External opening of the breathing system, usually round or oval in shape	General
spp., species	Plural of species	Latin Abbreviations
spurious	False or incomplete	Diptera
spurious vein	Certain folds or thickenings in the wing surface which resemble a vein so nearly as to be readily mistaken for a vein	Diptera
squama	A small scale above the halteres in Diptera	Diptera
sterna	Plural of sternum	General
sternal	Referring to sternum or ventral regions	General
stigma	A dense, often discolored portion of the costal margin of a wing, usually at the end of the radius	Wing
stylate	Last segment bearing an elongate terminal fingerlike process	Antennal forms
stylus	Short, slender, fingerlike process	Thysanura
sub. gen.	Subgenus	Latin Abbreviations
subcosta vein	Generally unbranched, longitudinal vein extending parallel to the costa, reaching the outer margin before the costa	Wing

Term	Definition	Applies to:
subsp.	Subspecies	Latin Abbreviations
supr. cit., supra citato	Cited above	Latin Abbreviations
tarsal formula	Number of segments in pro-, meso-, and metatarsi (expressed as 5-5-5)	Coleoptera
tarsomere	Tarsal segment	General
tarsus	Distal or apical portion of leg, bearing claws (1-5 segments)	Leg
tegmen	Thickened or leathery front wing (plural = tegmina)	Orthoptera
tegula	Small scalelike structure overlapping base of front wing	Hymenoptera
tegulae	Small, more or less cup-like scales at the base of primaries in many insects, specifically Hymenoptera	Hymenoptera
tenaculum	Minute structure on ventral side of 3rd abdominal segment that serves as a clasp for furcula	Collembola
tergum	Plate on dorsal surface of abdomen	General
thorax	Second of 3 body regions, bearing legs and wings	General
tibia	4th segment of leg, between femur and tarsus	Leg
trachea	Tubular breathing system of insects, marked externally by a circular opening or spiracle	General
trochanter	2nd segment of leg, between coxa and femur	Leg
tympanum	Vibrating membrane; auditory membrane or eardrum	Orthoptera, Diptera, Coleoptera, Mantodea
ventral	Bottom surface of body	General
vertex	Top of head, anterior to occipital suture	General
vibrissae	Curved bristles or hairs in some Diptera, situated between the mystax and antennae	Diptera
wing pads	External expression of wing in immature insects, before eclosion	General