



4-H Study Materials for Entomology Contests

January 2003

IV. Classification

Why Classification Is Important

Classification of living organisms is based on a scheme of grouping similar organisms together. Each group is in turn made up of smaller groups that share even more characteristics. The most precise group is a species. Individuals in a species are capable of interbreeding and reproducing additional members.

Classification of Insects and Their Relatives

Insects and their relatives included in this study are classified into the following divisions.

Animal Kingdom (all multicellular animals)

Phylum Arthropoda (invertebrates with jointed appendages)

Class Hexapoda or Insecta (insects)

Class Arachnida (ticks, mites, spiders, scorpions)

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