

Common Austin Arthropod Classes & Orders

INSECTS

most commonly seen:

Lepidoptera - butterflies, moths
Hymenoptera - bees, wasps, ants
Diptera - flies
Hemiptera - homopterans, true bugs
Coleoptera - beetles
Orthoptera - grasshoppers, katydids, crickets

very small:

Microcoryphia - jumping bristletails
Collembola - springtails
Isoptera - termites
Psocoptera - barklice
Siphonaptera - fleas
Thysanoptera - thrips
Embioptera - webspinners

found near water:

Odonata - dragonflies, damselflies
Ephemeroptera - mayflies
Trichoptera - caddisflies
Plecoptera - stoneflies

easy to recognize:

Dermaptera - earwigs
Blattodea - cockroaches
Mantodea - mantids
Phasmatodea - stick insects
Mecoptera - scorpionflies, hangingflies
Neuroptera - lacewings, antlions, etc

ARACHNIDS

Opiliones - harvestmen
Acari - ticks, mites
Scorpiones - scorpions
Araneae - spiders

OTHER

CHILOPODA - centipedes
DIPLOPODA - millipedes
ISOPODA - pillbugs, sowbugs

Tips for Observing Arthropods:

1. Think SMALL
2. Look for motion - visually follow flying insects to see where they land
3. Learn where different critters live: around flowers, on leaves/branches, under stones, in water
4. Note leaf damage, webs, droppings
5. Scan for color and pattern differences in habitat
6. Move slowly - you are bigger than arthropods and they find you scary

Tips for Identifying Arthropods:

1. Start general and narrow it down from there
2. Just because it looks like a species in a book doesn't mean it is - check for look-alikes
3. Be satisfied with getting the Family or Genus correct - species might be an unobtainable goal
4. Get familiar with your guide book, favorite bug websites, and local human resources
5. Keep a list, take notes, and make a collection (photos, specimens, or drawings)
6. Never give up

Best General Arthropod Identification Resources:

Website: bugguide.net

Insect Book: [Kaufman Field Guide to Insects of North America](#) by Eaton & Kaufman

Spider Guide: [Spiders of Texas](#) by Valerie Bugh (folding laminated pamphlet)

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