

## Classification of British Insects

There are over 24,000 species of insects in Britain. Like all animals, they are classified using a hierarchical system of classification. Here is an example using the marmalade hoverfly, *Episyrphus balteatus*:

Kingdom: Animalia (all animals)  
 Phylum: Arthropoda (all arthropods)  
 Class: Insecta (only the insects)  
 Order: Diptera (only the true flies)  
 Family: Syrphidae (only the hoverflies)  
 Genus: *Episyrphus* (only a sub-set of the hoverflies)  
 Species: *balteatus*



Marmalade hoverfly © Jim Rae

### CLASS INSECTA

SUB-CLASS	ORDER	COMMON NAME	
Apterygota	Microcoryphia	3 Pronged Bristletails	
	Diplura	2 Pronged Bristletails	
	Protura	Proturans	
	Collembola	Springtails	
	Zygentoma	Silverfish and Firebrats	
Pterygota			
- Exopterygota	Ephemeroptera	Mayflies	
	Odonata	Dragonflies and Damselflies	
	Dermaptera	Earwigs	
	Dictyoptera	Cockroaches	
	Orthoptera	Grasshoppers, Crickets, Bush Crickets and Groundhoppers	
	Phasmida	Stick Bugs	
	Plecoptera	Stoneflies	
	Hemiptera	True Bugs	
	Siphunculata	Sucking Lice	
	Mallophaga	Biting Lice	
	Psocoptera	Barklice	
	Thysanoptera	Thrips	
	- Endopterygota	Coleoptera	Beetles
		Diptera	True Flies
Hymenoptera		Ants, Bees, Wasps and Sawflies	
Lepidoptera		Butterflies and Moths	
Mecoptera		Scorpionflies	
Megaloptera		Alderflies	
Neuroptera		Lacewings and Antlions	
Raphidioptera		Snakeflies	
Siphonaptera		Fleas	
Trichoptera		Caddisflies	
Strepsiptera	Stylops		