

BLATTODEA

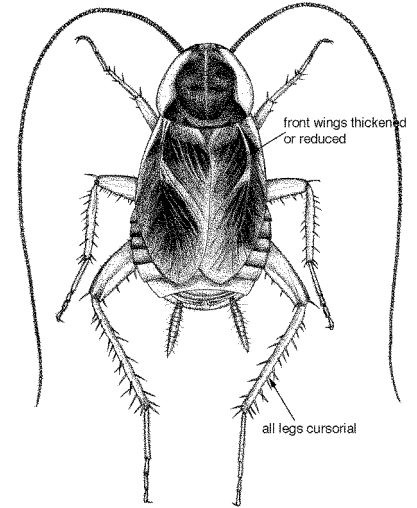
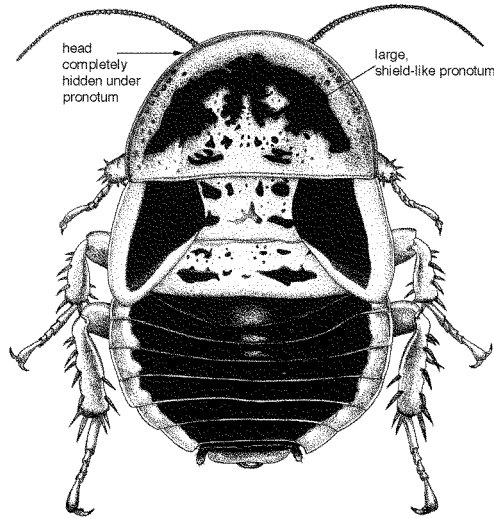
NAME ORIGIN: *L. blatta* – cockroach.

INTRODUCTION: Cockroaches.

4,000 species worldwide, 70 species in the US.

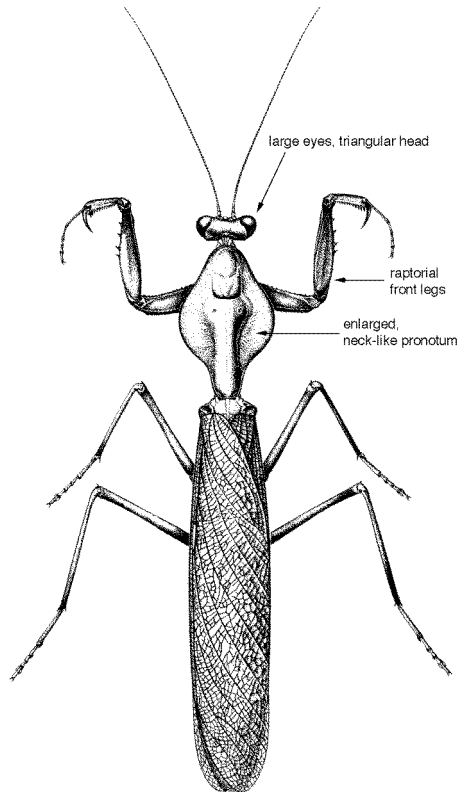
RECOGNITION:

- **head concealed from above by large, shield-like pronotum**
- dorsoventrally flattened
- usually with large wings folded flat over body, and forewings usually thickened for protection (although many wingless)
- mandibulate
- cerci present



HABITATS: Cockroaches are omnivorous. Although a few species are household pests, the majority live in the wild. Most are tropical and subtropical with few species in the North. Mostly nocturnal.

COLLECTING: Cockroaches are often found in human dwellings or restaurant kitchens. Look under wood in dry grassy areas. They may be collected into EtOH and later pinned. Immatures are usually too soft to pin and must remain in EtOH.

MANTODEA

NAME ORIGIN: Gk. mantis – diviner, prophet.

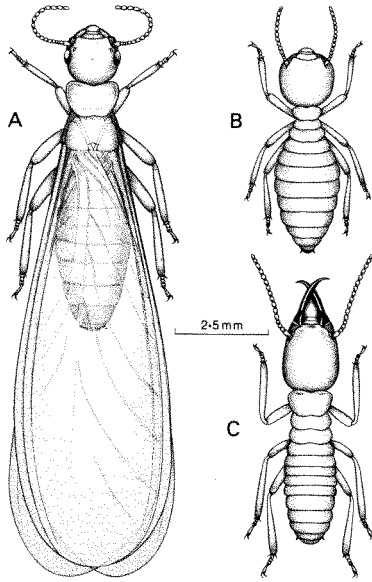
INTRODUCTION: Mantids. 2,000 species worldwide, 20 species in the US. From an evolutionary viewpoint, mantids are modified, predatory cockroaches.

RECOGNITION:

- elongate body
- **prothorax (pronotum) greatly lengthened**
- **forelegs raptorial (modified for grasping)**
- forewings thickened (some wingless species or sexes)
- head freely movable – mantids are the only insects that can "look over their shoulder"

HABITATS: Mantids are diurnal, visual-hunting predators often found among knee- to waist-high vegetation. The majority are tropical.

COLLECTING: Both Connecticut species are sun-loving, to be sought in open fields (especially in those that have not been mowed recently). Due to their large size and elongate shape, they may need support from a card while drying. They are not protected (in fact both our species are introduced).

ISOPTERA

NAME ORIGIN: Gk. isos – equal, like; pteron – a wing.

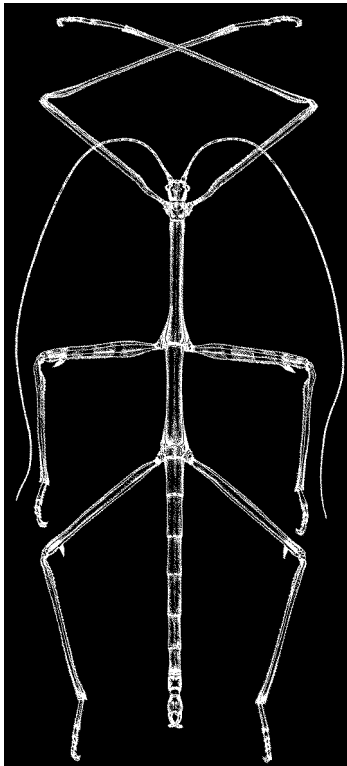
INTRODUCTION: Termites. Termites are small to medium-sized, cellulose-eating social insects, with approximately 2,300 species worldwide and 41 species in the US. They live in highly organized and integrated societies, or colonies, with the individuals differentiated morphologically into distinct forms or castes – **reproductives (Fig. A), workers (Fig. B), and soldiers (Fig. C).** The wings are present only in the reproductive caste and are shed before a male and female (king and queen) begin digging their nest. Both morphological and molecular data suggest that termites are modified, social cockroaches.

RECOGNITION:

- **polymorphic, soft-bodied (usually pale)**
- wingless & immature workers
- wings of reproductives longer than body, held flat over body, deciduous
- cerci short

HABITATS: Termites live in colonies under the ground or in wood. They are among the most significant consumers of wood and plant matter (cellulose) on our planet, especially in lower latitudes, and thus termites and humans often compete for the same resources.

COLLECTING: In Connecticut, our single representative is usually found in very sunny areas with well-drained soils. Termites must be stored permanently in EtOH. Because termites are colonial, one should collect many individuals of as many castes as possible into one vial per nest. Certain castes (e.g. the reproductives) are often unidentifiable because they have never been associated with the described soldiers and workers.

PHASMATODEA

NAME ORIGIN: Gk. phasma – apparition, spectre.

INTRODUCTION: Walkingsticks and leaf insects. Over 2,500 species worldwide, with 31 species in North America.

RECOGNITION:

- **elongate**
- medium to large (some over 30 cm)
- **most resemble sticks or leaves**
- in N. America only 1 species developing wings

HABITATS: Among vegetation as all species are herbivorous. Most are nocturnal. Primarily a tropical group.

COLLECTING: Walkingsticks are often collected with beating sheets. Adults should be pinned near the middle of the body. Until the specimen is fully dried, the body and legs should be supported by a long card or left on a styrofoam pinning surface.