

# Lacewings and their Allies



## Part 1

# Introduction

- Part 1 of 2 on the identification of British Isles Lacewings and their Allies
- Introduction to Lacewings and their Allies
- How to identify species from images and in the field
- How to submit records



# Lacewings and Allies

Closely related:

- **Neuroptera** (Lacewings)
- **Raphidioptera** (Snakeflies)
- **Megaloptera** (Alderflies, Dobsonflies, Fishflies)

Distantly related:

- **Mecoptera** (Scorpionflies, Snow Fleas)

Global Diversity:

- **Neuroptera**: 5917 species, 16 families
- **Raphidioptera**: 260 species, 2 families
- **Megaloptera**: 300 species, 2 families
- **Mecoptera**: 570 species, 9 families



# British Isles Lacewings and Allies

## Neuroptera (Lacewings, Antlions, etc.)



- Four membranous wings, usually all the same size
- Wings with dense intricate pattern of veins
- Wings held tent-like over body
- Large Eyes
- Long antennae
- Delicate insects



# Raphidioptera (Snakeflies)

- Four membranous wings, same size
- Relatively dense wing venation
- Wings held tent-like over body



Male



- Large Eyes
- Elongate pronotum
- Long needle-like ovipositor
- Delicate insects

# Megaloptera (Alderflies)

- Four dark-coloured wings, all same size
- Relatively dense venation on wings
- Wings held tent-like over body



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- Long antennae
- Large eyes
- Broad head
- Robust insects

# Mecoptera (Scorpionflies and Snow Fleas)



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Algirdas (CC BY-3.0)

- Four membranous often patterned wings (Scorpionflies), reduced (Snow Fleas)
- Face modified into a 'beak'
- Long antennae
- Large eyes
- Male enlarged genital capsule, female abdomen slender (Scorpionflies)
- Female long ovipositor (Snow Fleas)



G. S. Martin (CC BY SA 2.0)

# Neuroptera (Lacewings)

## 6 families 72 species

### CONIOPTERYGIDAE (Waxflies)

- *Conwentzia pineticola* Enderlein, 1905
- *Conwentzia psociformis* (Curtis, 1834)
- *Coniopteryx borealis* Tjeder, 1930
- *Coniopteryx tineiformis* Curtis, 1834
- *Coniopteryx pygmaea* Enderlein, 1906
- *Coniopteryx esbenpeterseni* Tjeder, 1930
- *Coniopteryx lentiae* Aspöck & Aspöck, 1964
- *Semidalis aleyrodiformis* (Stephens, 1836)
- *Semidalis pseudouncinata* Meinander, 1963
- *Parasemidalis fuscipennis* (Reuter, 1894)
- *Aleuropteryx juniperi* Ohm, 1968
- *Helicoconis hirtinervis* Tjeder, 19

### OSMYLIDAE (Giant Lacewings)

- *Osmylus fulvicephalus* (Scopoli, 1793)

### SISYRIDAE (Spongeflies)

- *Sisyra dalii* McLachlan, 1866
- *Sisyra nigra* (Retzius, 1783) Syn: *Sisyra fuscata* (Fabricius, 1793)
- *Sisyra terminalis* Curtis, 1854

### CHRYSOPIDAE (Green Lacewings)

- *Chrysopa abbreviata* Curtis 1834
- *Chrysopa commata* Kis & Újhelyi, 1965
- *Chrysopa dorsalis* Burmeister, 1839
- *Chrysopa pallens* (Rambur, 1838)
- *Chrysopa perla* (Linnaeus, 1758)
- *Chrysopa phylochoma* Wesmael, 1841
- *Chrysoperla carnea* (Stephens, 1836)
- *Chrysoperla lucasina* (Lacroix, 1912)
- *Chrysoperla pallida* Henry, Brooks, Duelli, & Johnson, 2002
- *Chrysopidia ciliata* (Wesmael, 1842)
- *Cunctochrysa albolineata* (Killington, 1935)
- *Cunctochrysa cosmia* (Navás, 1918) Syn: *Cunctochrysa bellifontensis* Leraut, 1988

- *Apertochrysa flavifrons* (Brauer, 1850) Syn: *Dichochrysa flavifrons* (Brauer, 1850)
- *Apertochrysa prasina* (Burmeister, 1839) Syn: *Dichochrysa prasina* (Burmeister, 1839)
- *Apertochrysa ventralis* (Curtis, 1834) Syn: *Dichochrysa ventralis* (Curtis, 1834)
- *Nineta flava* (Scopoli, 1793)
- *Nineta vittata* (Wesmael, 1841)
- *Nineta inpunctata* (Reuter, 1894)
- *Nineta pallida* (Schneider, 1846)
- *Nothochrysa capitata* (Fabricius, 1793)
- *Nothochrysa fulviceps* (Stephens, 1836)
- *Peyerimhoffina gracilis* (Schneider, 1851)

### HEMEROBIIDAE (Brown Lacewings)

- *Psectra diptera* (Burmeister, 1839)
- *Micromus variegatus* (Fabricius, 1793)
- *Micromus angulatus* (Stephens, 1836)
- *Micromus paganus* (Linnaeus, 1767)
- *Drepanopteryx phalaenoides* (Linnaeus, 1758)
- *Hemerobius humulinus* Linnaeus, 1761
- *Hemerobius perelegans* Stephens, 1836
- *Hemerobius simulans* Walker, 1853
- *Hemerobius stigma* Stephens, 1836
- *Hemerobius atrifrons* McLachlan, 1868
- *Hemerobius pini* Stephens, 1836, nec Leach
- *Hemerobius contumax* Tjeder, 1932
- *Hemerobius striatus* Nakahara, 1915 Syn: *Hemerobius fenestratus* Tjeder, 1932
- *Hemerobius nitidulus* Fabricius, 1777
- *Hemerobius micans* Olivier, 1792
- *Hemerobius lutescens* Fabricius, 1793,
- *Hemerobius marginatus* Stephens, 1836
- *Hemerobius handschini* Tjeder, 1957
- *Wesmaelius malladai* (Navás, 1925)
- *Wesmaelius mortoni* (McLachlan, 1899)
- *Wesmaelius ravus* (Withycombe, 1923)

- *Wesmaelius balticus* (Strøm, 1788)
- *Wesmaelius nervosus* (Fabricius, 1793)
- *Wesmaelius subnebulosus* (Stephens, 1836)
- *Wesmaelius concinnus* (Stephens, 1836)
- *Wesmaelius quadrifasciatus* (Reuter, 1894)
- *Symphorobius elegans* (Stephens, 1836)
- *Symphorobius pygmaeus* (Rambur, 1842)
- *Symphorobius pellucidus* (Walker, 1853)
- *Symphorobius fuscescens* (Wallengren, 1863)
- *Symphorobius klapaleki* Zelený, 1963
- *Megalomus hirtus* (Linnaeus, 1761)

### MYRMELEONTIDAE (Antlions)

- *Euroleon nostras* (Fourcroy, 1785)
- *Myrmeleon formicarius* Linnaeus, 1767



# Raphidioptera, Megaloptera, Mecoptera

## Raphidioptera (Snakeflies) 4 species

RAPHIDIIDAE Latreille, 1810

- *Subilla confinis* (Stephens, 1836)
- *Xanthostigma xanthostigma* (Schummel, 1832)
- *Atlantoraphidia maculicollis* (Stephens, 1836)
- *Phaeostigma notata* (Fabricius, 1781) [note: some authors list as *Phaeostigma notatum*]

## Megaloptera (Alderflies) 3 species

SIALIDAE Leach, 1815

- *Sialis fuliginosa* F.J. Pictet, 1836
- *Sialis lutaria* (Linnaeus, 1758)
- *Sialis nigripes* A.E. Pictet, 1865

## Mecoptera (Scorpionflies and Snow Fleas) 4 species

BOREIDAE McLachlan 1868

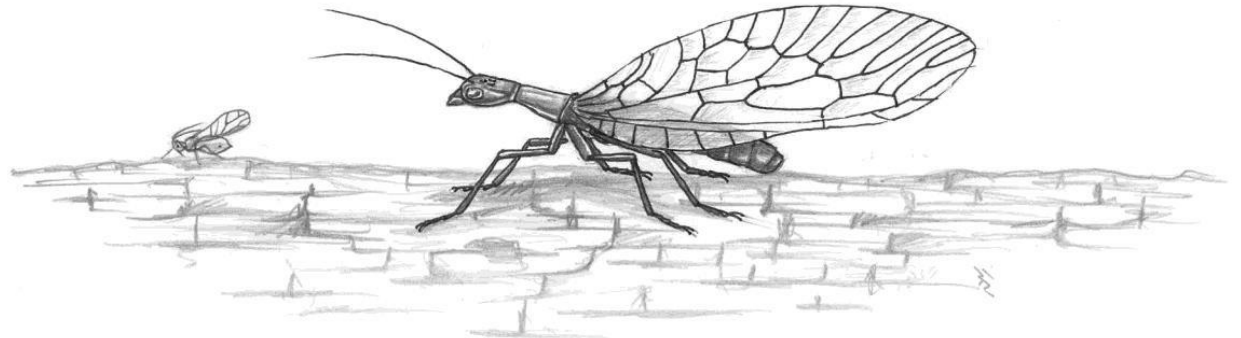
- *Boreus hyemalis* (Linnaeus, 1767)

PANORPIDAE Leach, 1815

- *Panorpa cognata* Rambur, 1842
- *Panorpa communis* Linnaeus, 1758
- *Panorpa germanica* Linnaeus, 1758

# British fossil record

- **Neuroptera:** Triassic (205 million years ago (MA)), Jurassic (150 MA), Cretaceous (140 MA) and Palaeogene (30 MA)
- **Raphidioptera:** Cretaceous (140 MA)
- No **Megaloptera** fossils
- All preserved as isolated wings
- Mostly from Dorset, Weald, and Isle of Wight
- Fossils of Chrysopidae, Osmylidae, Hemerobiidae



Cretaceous Snakefly *Proraphidia hopkinsi*. Drawing by N. Watson

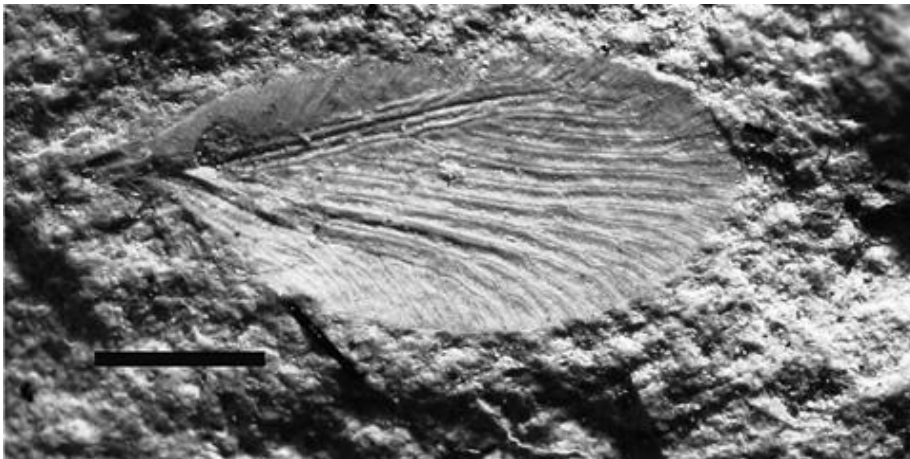
- Fossils in Britain of families alive today that are no longer present in the British Isles



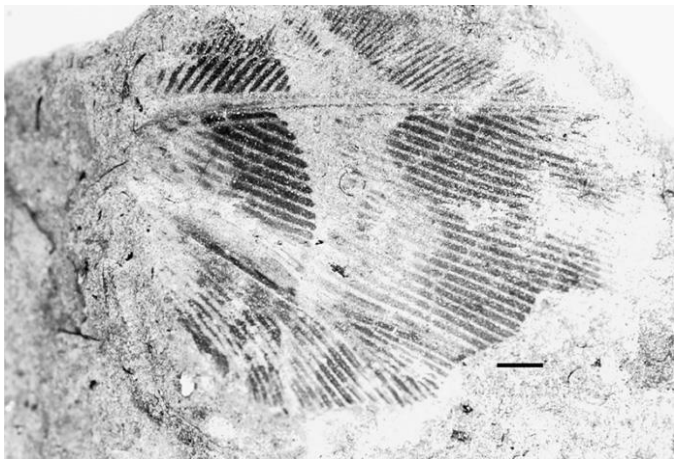
**Ithonidae** (Today: Nearctic, Neotropical, Australasian, Indomalayan realms)



**Nemopteridae** (Ethiopian, Palearctic, Australasian and Neotropical realms)

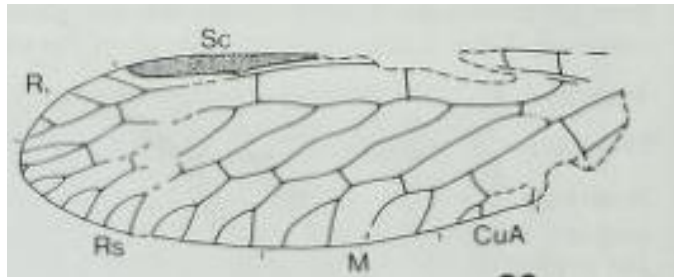


**Berothidae** (tropical, subtropical regions)



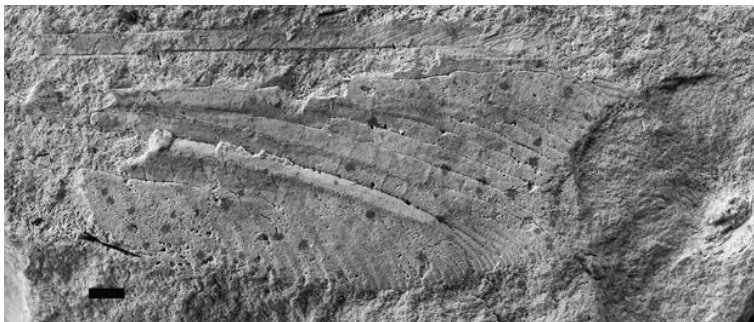
## Psychopsidae

(Afrotropical, Indomalayan, Australasian regions)



## Mantispidae

(worldwide, especially tropics, subtropics)

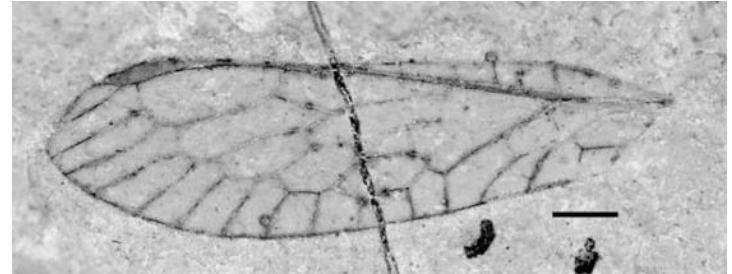


## Nymphidae

(Australia, New Guinea)

# Extinct families

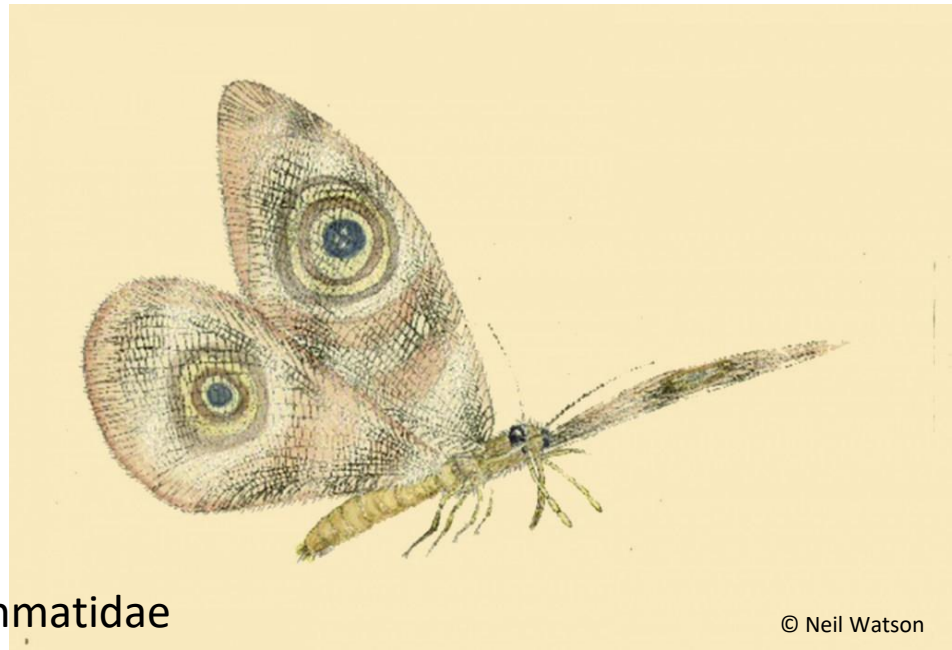
- Prohemerobiidae
- Kalligrammatidae
- Mesoraphidiidae (Raphidioptera)



Mesoraphidiidae



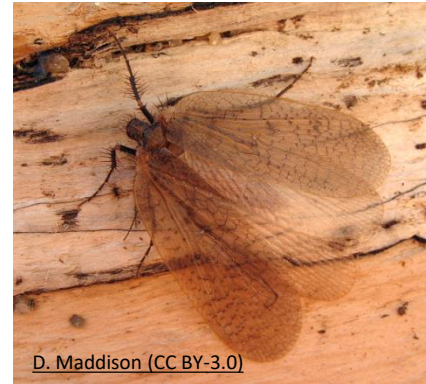
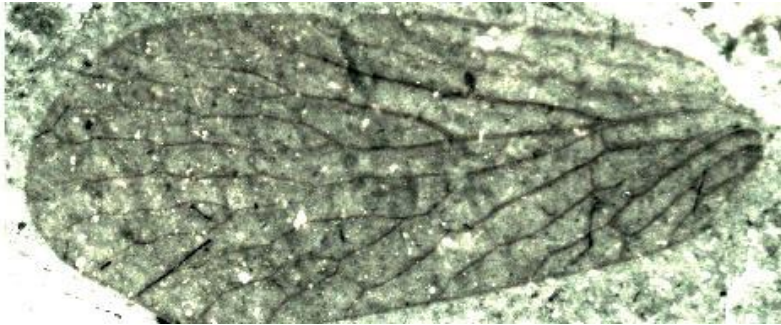
Kalligrammatidae



© Neil Watson

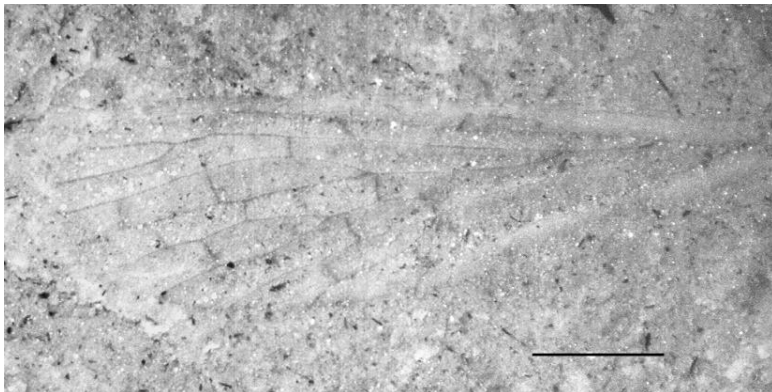
# British fossil record - Mecoptera

- Known from Triassic (208 million years ago (MA)), Jurassic (150MA), Cretaceous (140MA) and Palaeogene (30MA)
- Fossil Panorpidae (Scorpionflies) are recorded
- Again, fossils in Britain of families alive today that are no longer present in the British Isles
- Extinct family: Orthophlebiidae



**Eomeropidae**  
(one species in Chile)

D. Maddison (CC BY-3.0)



**Bittacidae**  
(worldwide)

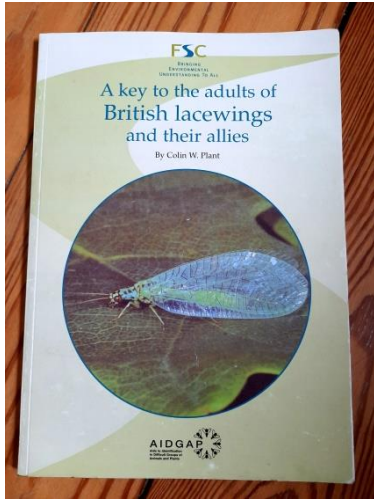
I. Loser (CC BY-SA-3.0)

# Identifying Lacewings and Allies

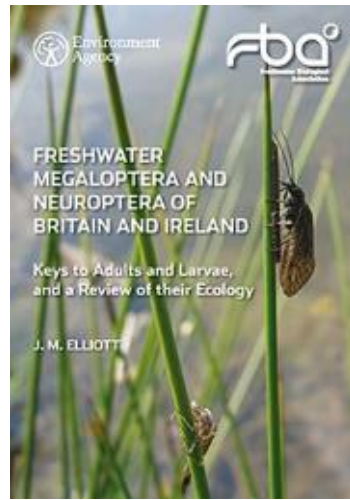
- Unfortunately, most species can only be identified using a microscope
- Some needing dissection
- A few species can be identified easily from photographs or in the field
- With practice, and becoming more familiar with the groups, you can start to identify more species from photographs



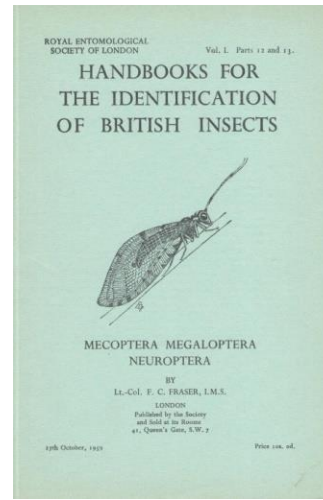
# Identifying Lacewings and Allies



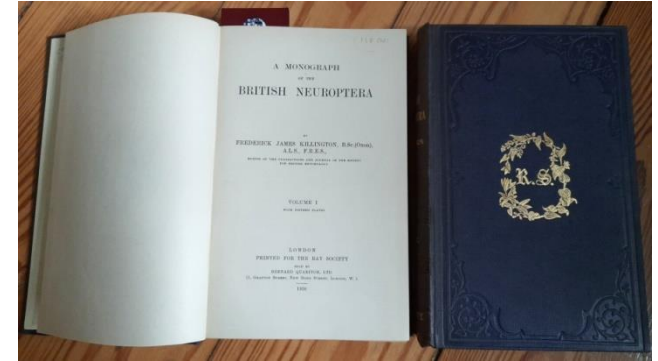
Plant, 1997



Elliott, 1996

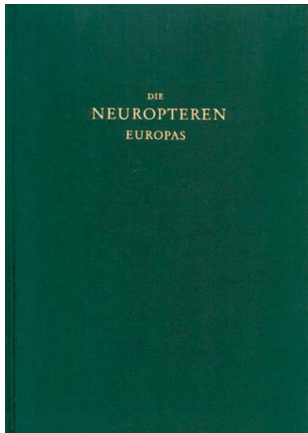


Fraser, 1959



Killington, 1936 (vol.1); 1937 (vol. 2)

## German



Aspöck et al. 1980

## Danish



Nielsen, 2015

## Finnish



Rintala et al., 2014

## Websites:

Lacewing and Allies Recording scheme:

<https://www.laars.jamesjepson.com>

Lacewing Digital Library:

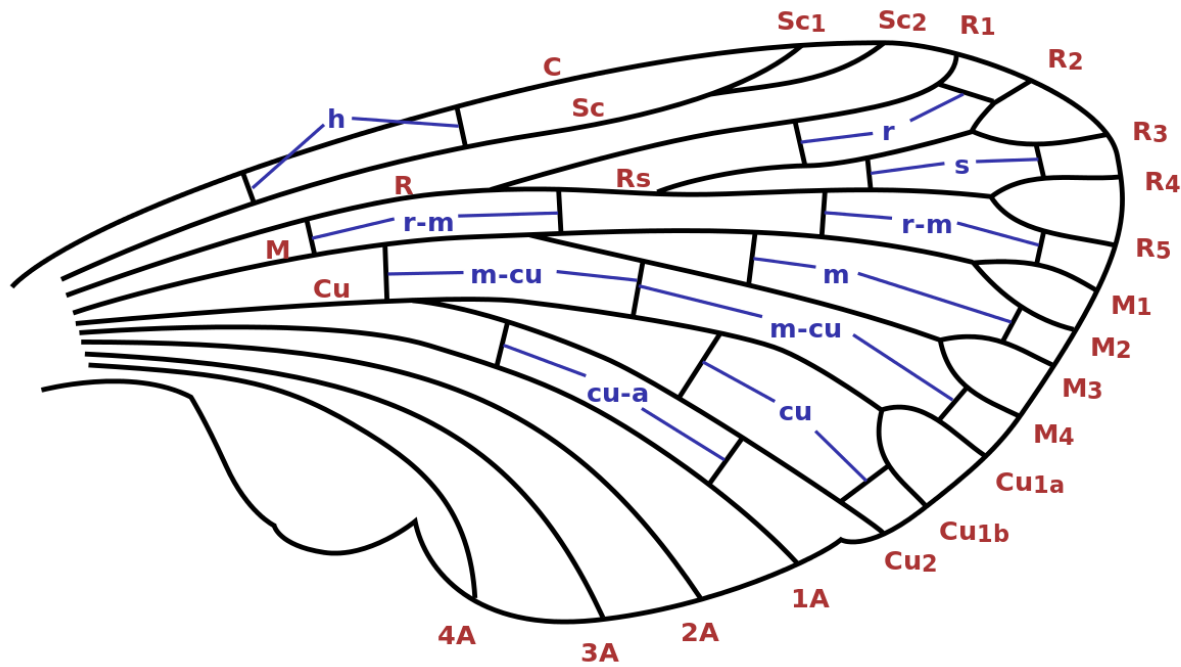
<https://lacewing.tamu.edu/>

Neuropterida Norway and Nordic Countries:

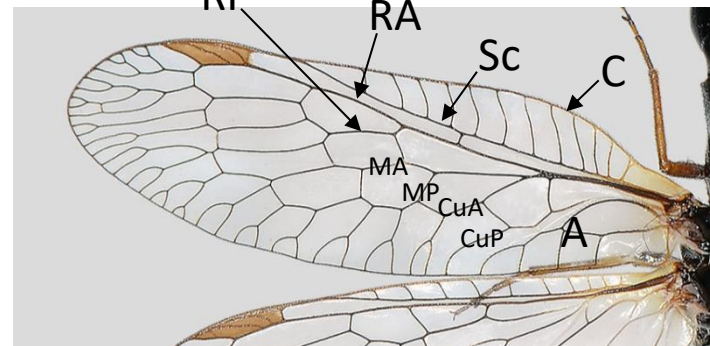
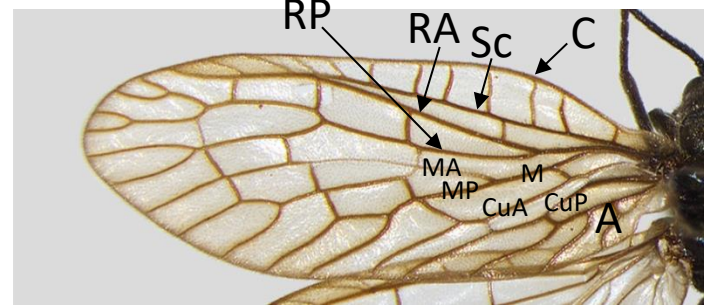
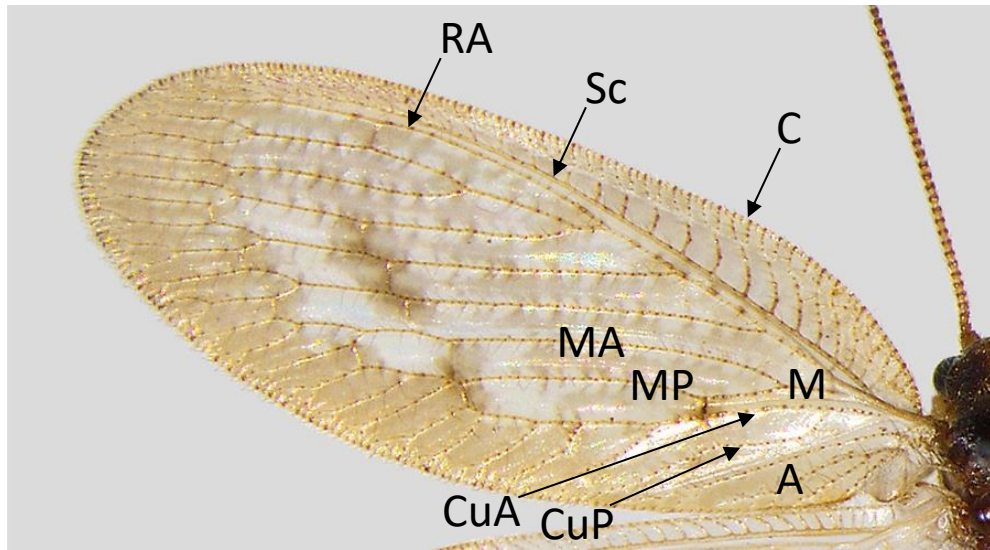
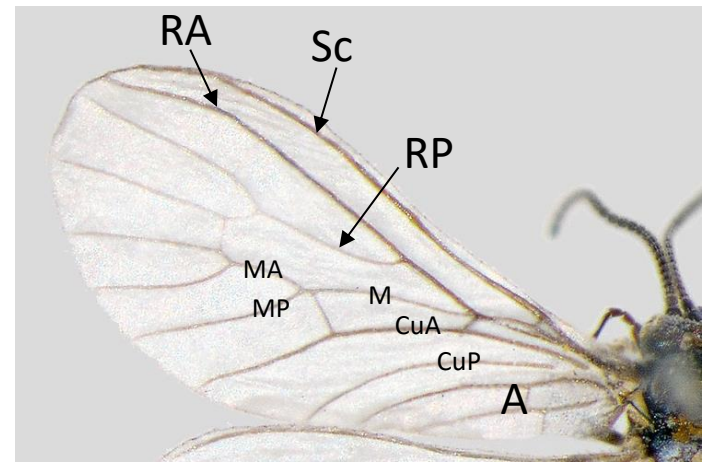
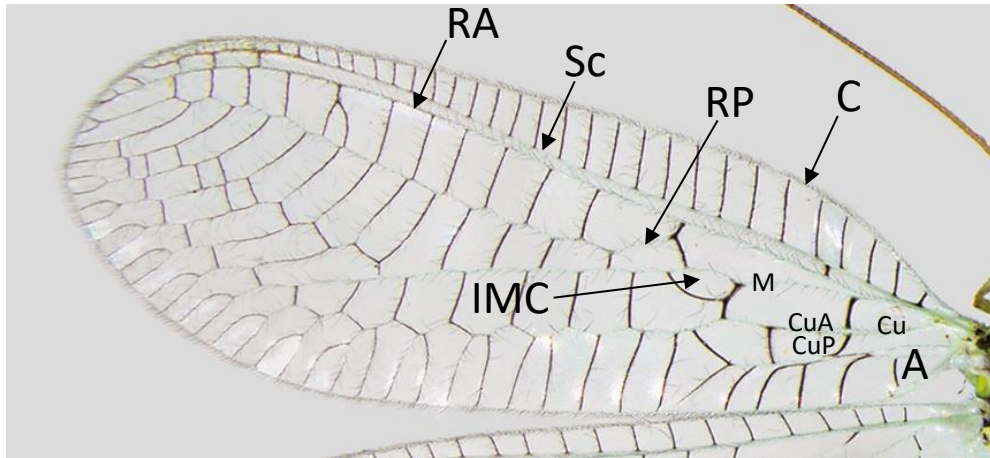
[https://www.artsdatabanken.no/Pages/223140/Nettvinger\\_mudderfluer\\_og\\_kamelhalsfluer\\_i](https://www.artsdatabanken.no/Pages/223140/Nettvinger_mudderfluer_og_kamelhalsfluer_i)



# Wing venation

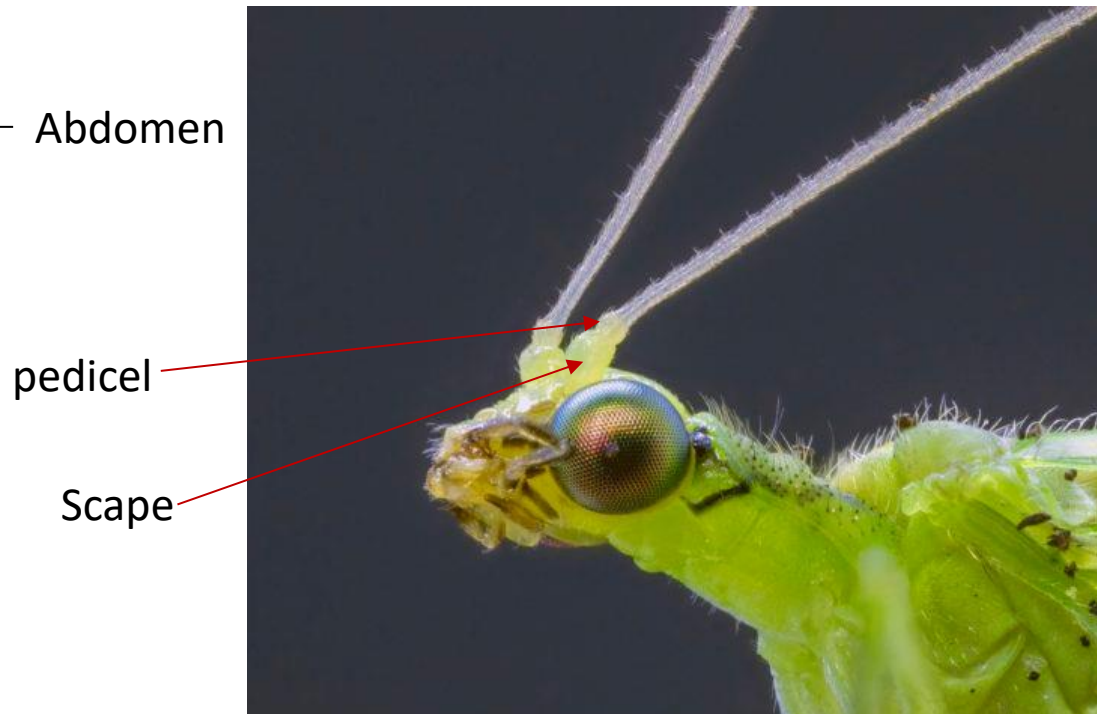
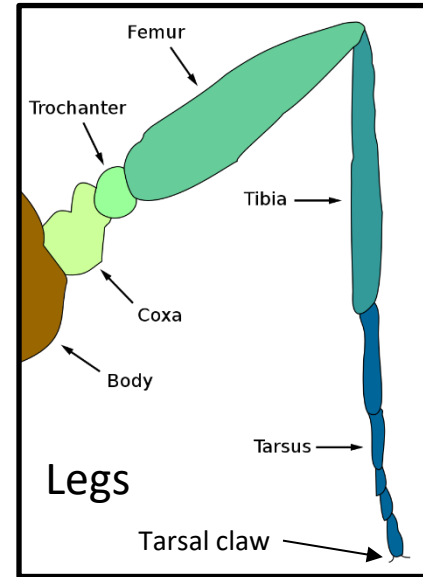
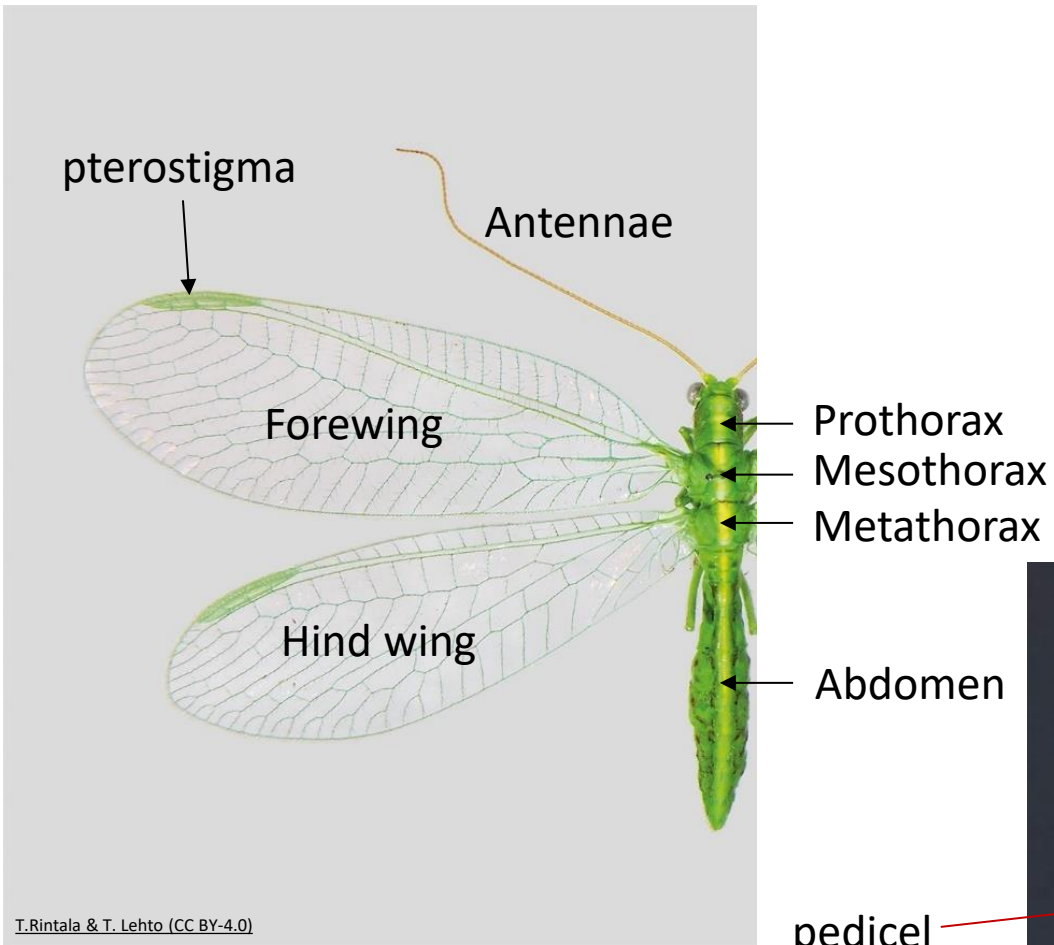


Comstock-Needham System



- C** = Costa
- Sc** = Subcosta
- R** = Radius
- RA(R1)** = Anterior Radius
- RP(R2 or RS)** = Posterior Radius (Radial sector)
- M** = Media
- MA** = Anterior Media
- MP** = Posterior Media
- Cu** = Cubitus
- CuA(Cu1)** = Anterior Cubitus
- CuP (Cu2)** = Posterior Cubitus
- A** = Anal veins
- IMC** = Intramedial Cell

# Body morphology



# Families in the British Isles

- Raphidioptera (Snakeflies)
  - One family: Raphidiidae
- Megaloptera (Alderflies)
  - One family: Sialidae
- Mecoptera
  - Two families: Panorpidae (Scorpionflies) and Boreidae (Snow Fleas)



# Neuroptera (Lacewings)

**Hemerobiidae**



**Osmylidae**



**Sisyridae**



**Chrysopidae**



**Myrmeleontidae**



**Coniopterygidae**



# Neuroptera Family key

1a. Reduced wing venation, longitudinal veins not branched at tip, very small insects covered in wax.....**Coniopterygidae** (Waxflies)



O.Fogh Nielsen (CC BY-4.0)



T.Rintala & T. Lehto (CC BY-4.0)

1b. Dense wing venation, many crossveins, longitudinal veins often branched at tip, not covered in wax .... **2**



O.Fogh Nielsen (CC BY-4.0)

2a. Antennae short, club-like. Large insects 55-85 mm ..... **Myrmeleontidae**  
(Antlions)



2b. Antennae long, not clubbed, small – large insects 6-55 mm .... **3**



3a. Ocelli present, clear wings with several large dark spots, antennae less than half the length of the forewing. Size 40-55 mm ..... **Osmylidae** (Giant Lacewing)

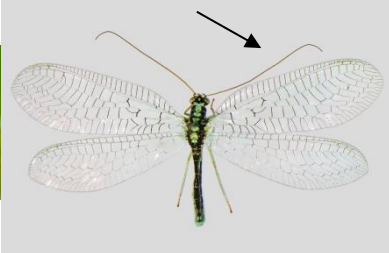


O.Fogh Nielsen (CC BY-4.0)

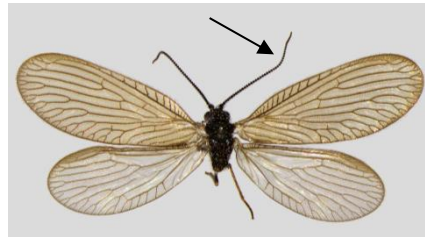


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3b. Ocelli absent, wings various colours and patterns, Antennae at least half length of wing, often longer. Small to large insects 6-45 mm ..... **4**



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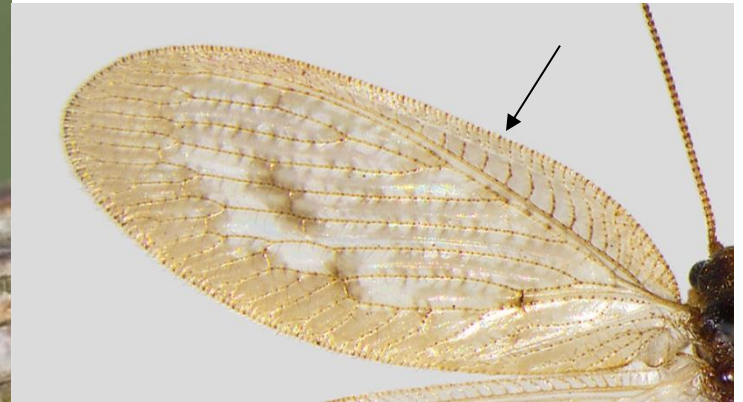
T.Rintala & T. Lehto (CC BY-4.0)



T.Rintala & T. Lehto (CC BY-4.0)

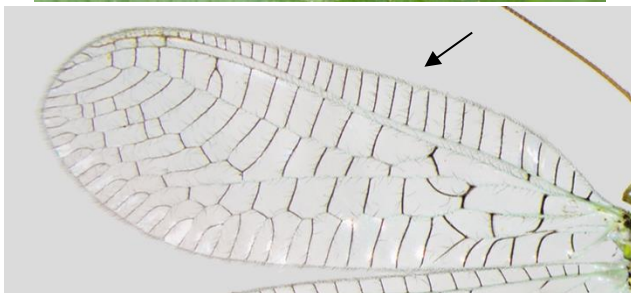


4a. Costal veinlets in forewing majority forked, wings various colours, patterns.  
Tiny – small insects 6-34 mm ..... **Hemerobiidae** (Brown Lacewings)

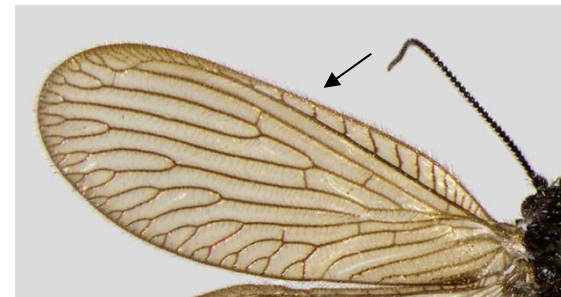


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4b. Costal veinlets in forewing not forked, wings generally single coloured, occasional rare patterns. Small to large insects 11-45 mm ..... **5**



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T.Rintala & T. Lehto (CC BY-4.0)

5a. Forewings ovate, uniformly coloured, one species does have rare patterns. Insects never green. Small insects 11-14 mm ..... **Sisyridae** (Sponge Flies)



5b. Forewings long, usually colourless without patterns, sometimes veins often darkened and pterostigma coloured. Often green when fresh. Medium to large insects 16-45 mm ..... **Chrysopidae** (Green Lacewings)



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# Finding Lacewings and Allies



## Woodland

- Coniopterygidae
- Hemerobiidae
- Chrysopidae
- Raphidioptera

## Freshwater

- Sisyridae
- Osmylidae
- Megaloptera





**Diverse habitats – grassland, scrub, gardens**

- Chrysopidae
- Hemerobiidae
- Coniopterygidae
- Mecoptera - Scorpionflies



## Sand dunes – Marram Grass

- Hemerobiidae - *Wesmaelius balticus*
- Chrysopidae - *Chrysopa abbreviata*



## Sandy soil

- Myrmeleontidae



## Moss

Mecoptera: *Boreus hyemalis*

## Wood sage on rocky slopes



© S. Burgess

Holyrood Park, Edinburgh

*Megalomus hirtus* (Bordered Brown Lacewing)

# Finding Lacewings and Allies

- Sweep netting vegetation, especially in June – August is often productive
- A long-handled net can be used to sweep higher branches
- Beating accessible branches of broad-leaved and coniferous trees may also give results, especially in the early morning
- Direct searching is good for *Sialis* species that are found on waterside vegetation and *Osmylus fulvicephalus* found often under bridges
- light traps – Hemerobiidae, Chrysopidae, Coniopterygidae, occasionally Osmylidae and Sisyridae

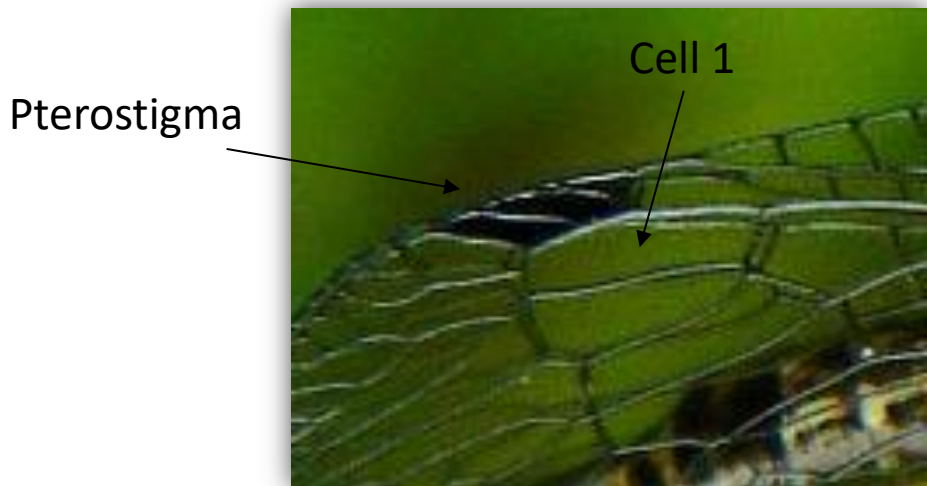


Species ID from Photos and in the Field

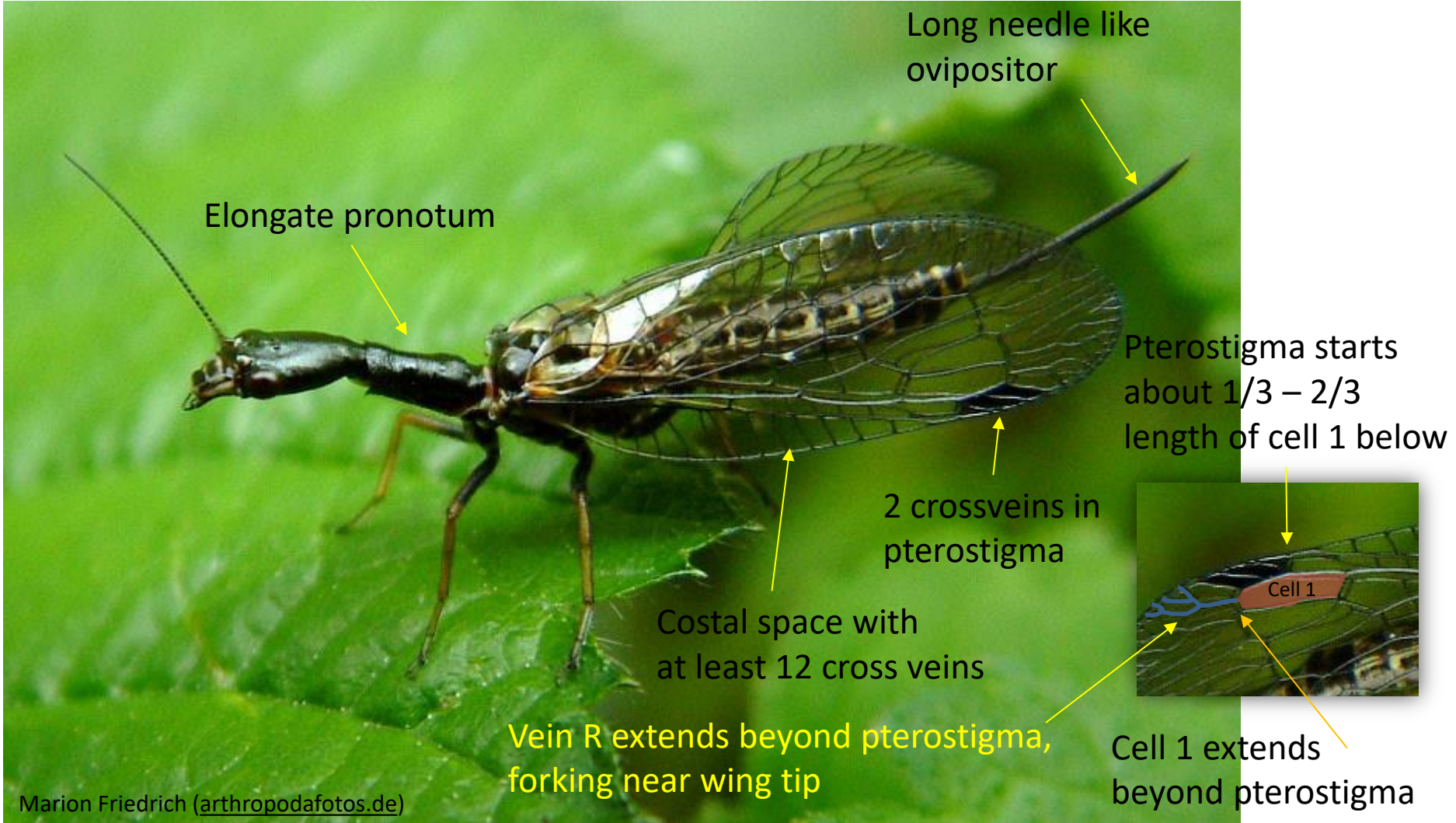


# Raphidioptera *Snakeflies*

- All four species can be potentially identified from photographs
- Two species can confidently be identified from photographs
- Two can potentially identified by photographs, however the most diagnostic character for these is on the hind wing



# *Phaeostigma notata* Oak Snakefly



- Widespread in England and Wales
- Associated with Oaks

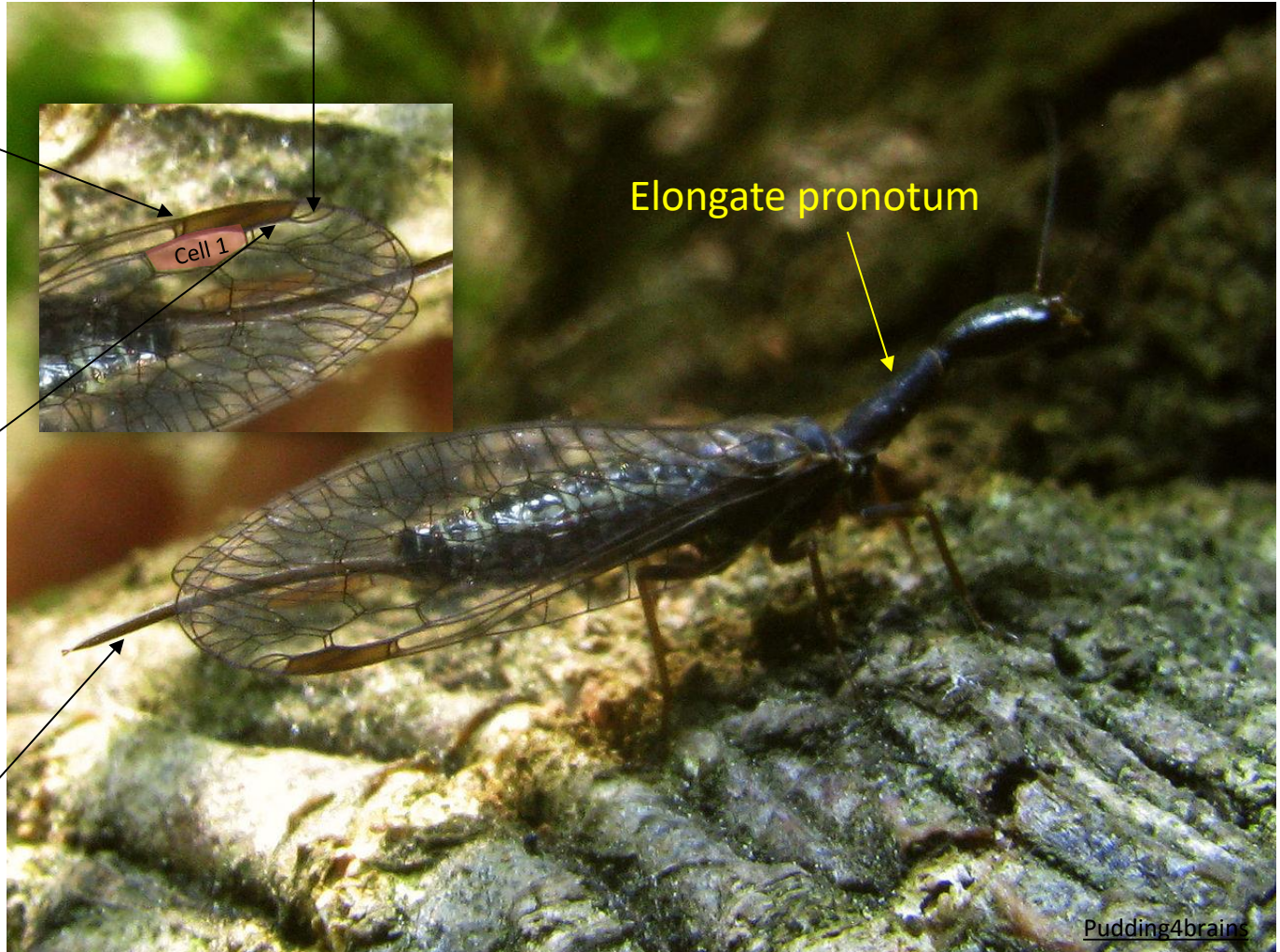
# *Atlantoraphidia maculicollis* Pine Snakefly

Vein R reaches wing edge without forking

Pterostigma starts about 1/3 – 2/3 Length of cell below

Pterostigma extends beyond cell

Long needle like ovipositor



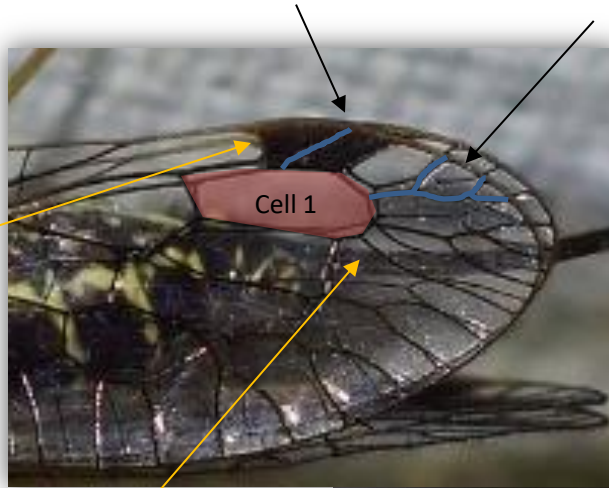
- Widespread in England, Wales, Scotland, most common in south
- Associated with Pines

# *Raphidia ophiopsis* Northern Pine Snakefly

- Present in Fenno-Scandinavia
- Could occur in Scotland

**1 crossvein in pterostigma**

Vein R extends beyond pterostigma,  
forking near wing tip



Pterostigma starts  
about  $1/3 - 2/3$   
length of cell 1  
below

Cell 1 extends  
beyond pterostigma



**Less than 10 costal crossveins**

# Raphidioptera *Snakeflies*

For the species *Xanthostigma xanthostigma* and *Subilla confinis*

- Hind wing venation is important to distinguish these as forewing venation is relatively similar
- There are other useful characters to identify these



O. Fogh Nielsen (CC BY 4.0)

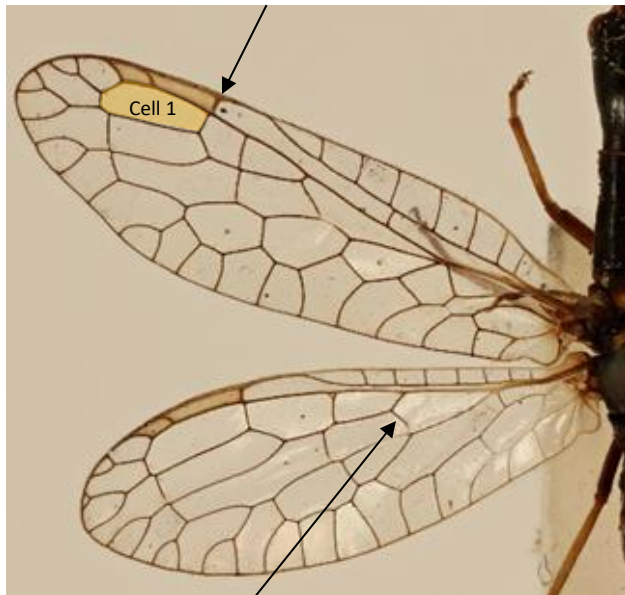
*Xanthostigma xanthostigma*



C. Mondy (CC BY)

*Subilla confinis*

Pterostigma as long as cell below

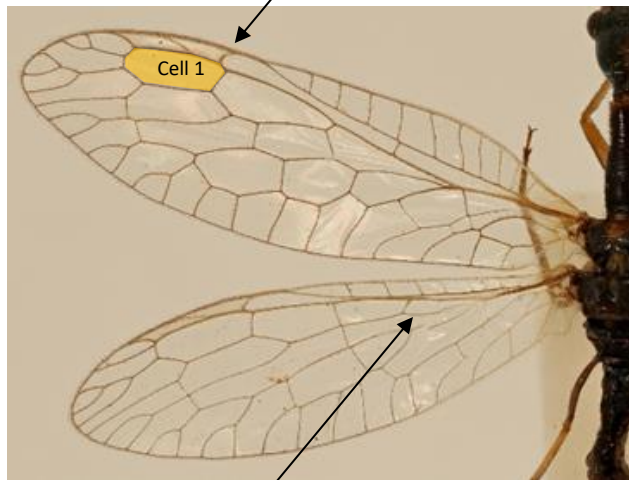


Basal branch of MA crossvein-like

*Xanthostigma xanthostigma*  
**Small Snakefly**



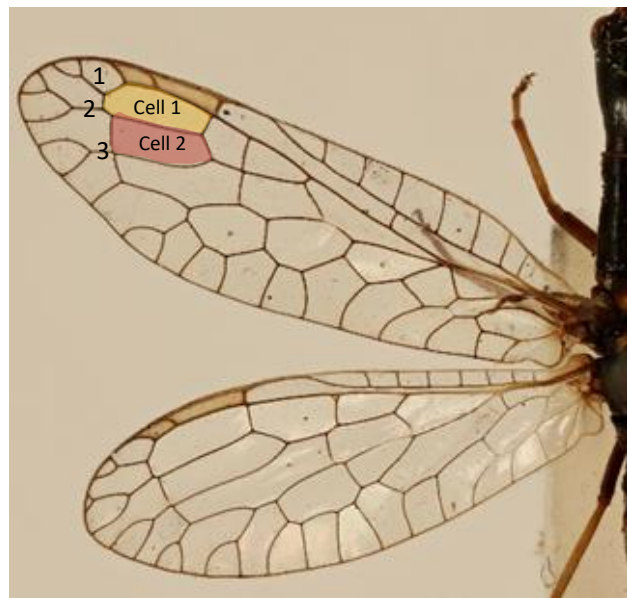
Pterostigma as long as cell below



Basal branch of MA sinuous/vein-like

*Subilla confinis*  
**Scarce Snakefly**



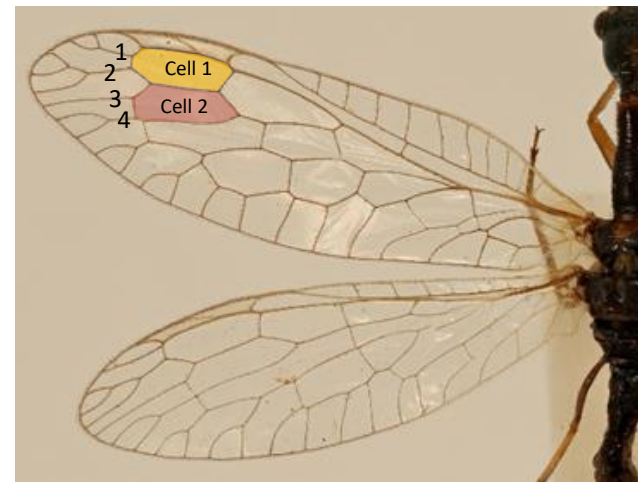


*Xanthostigma xanthostigma*

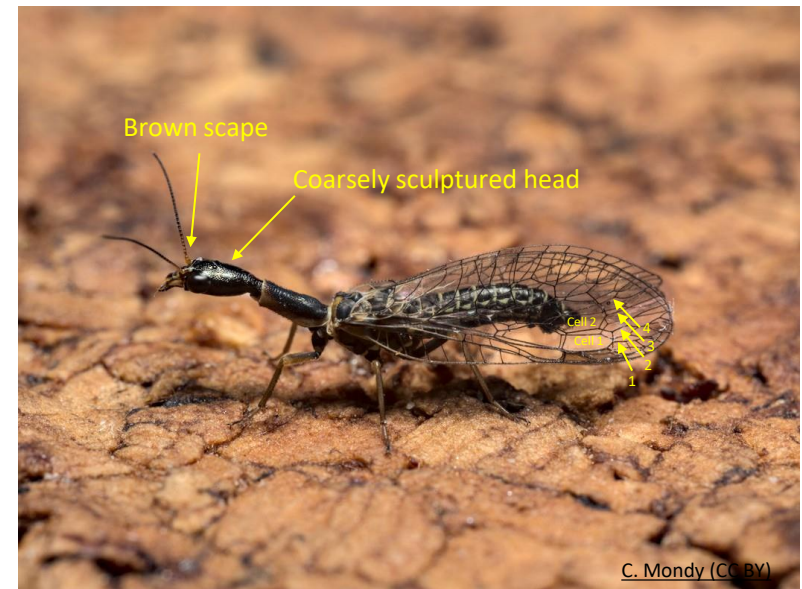


*Xanthostigma xanthostigma*

- Widespread in England, localised in Wales



*Subilla confinis*

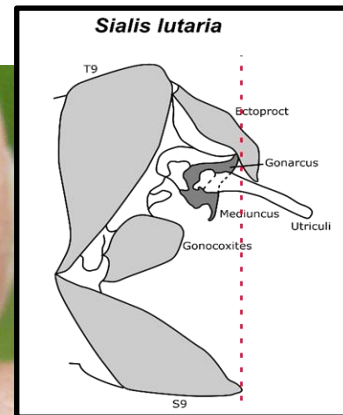
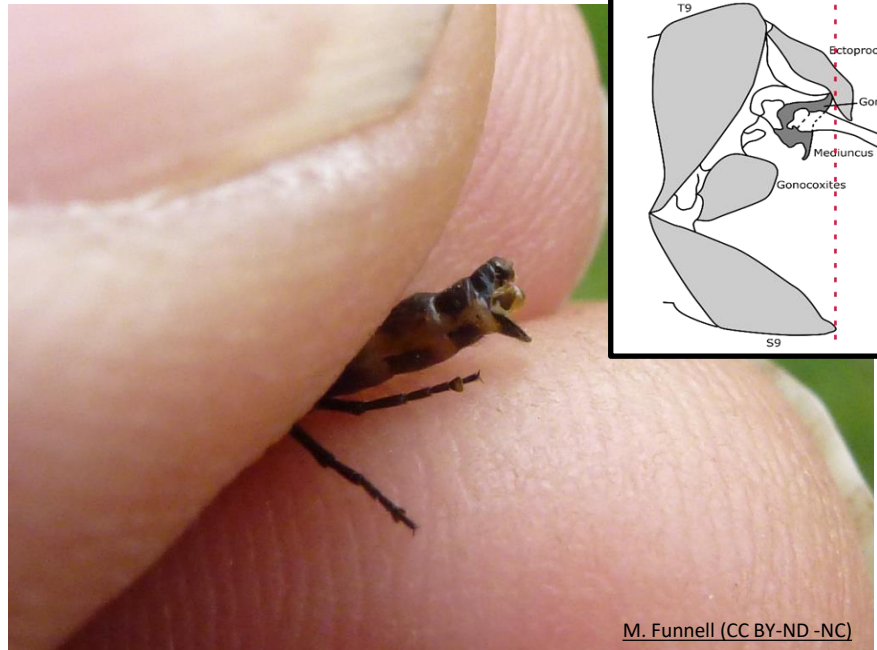


*Subilla confinis*

- Widespread but local in central, E, and SE England

# Megaloptera *Alderflies*

- Wing venation and general morphology similar between all species
- Can only be identified from genitalia, both male and female
- May be able to identify males in the field



*Sialis lutaria*

- Widespread and common



# Neuroptera *Lacewings*

- Unfortunately, most species require collection to identify using a microscope

All species require microscope ID:

- **Coniopterygidae**

Most species require microscope ID:

- **Hemerobiidae** and **Chrysopidae**

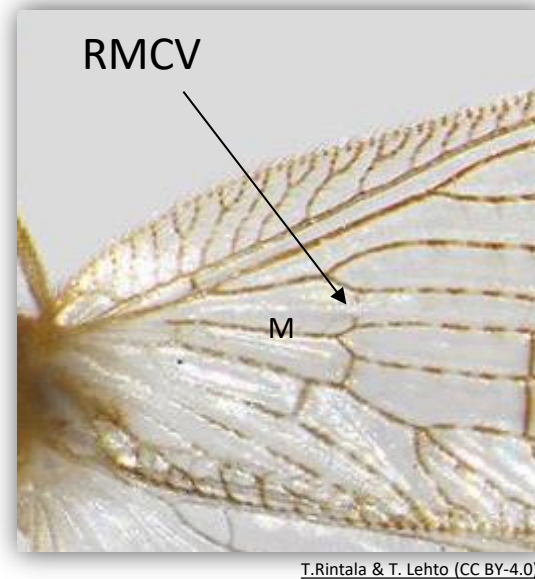
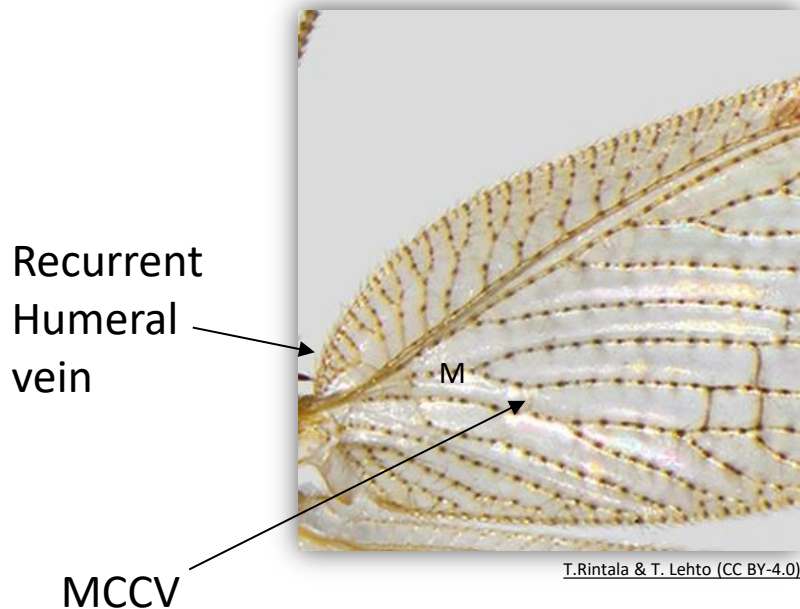
Most species can be identified in field or photograph:

- **Osmylidae**, **Sisyridae**, and **Myrmeleontidae**

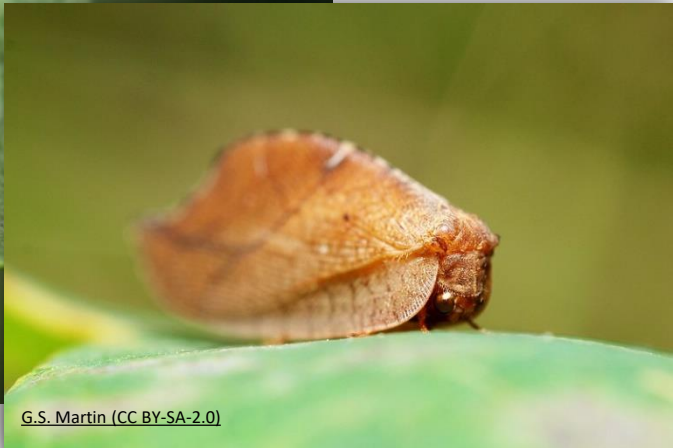


# Hemerobiidae *Brown Lacewings*

- 32 species in the British Isles
- Can look very similar
- Only a few can be confidently identified from photographs/in the field
- Found in a variety of habitats
- Some species do come to light traps

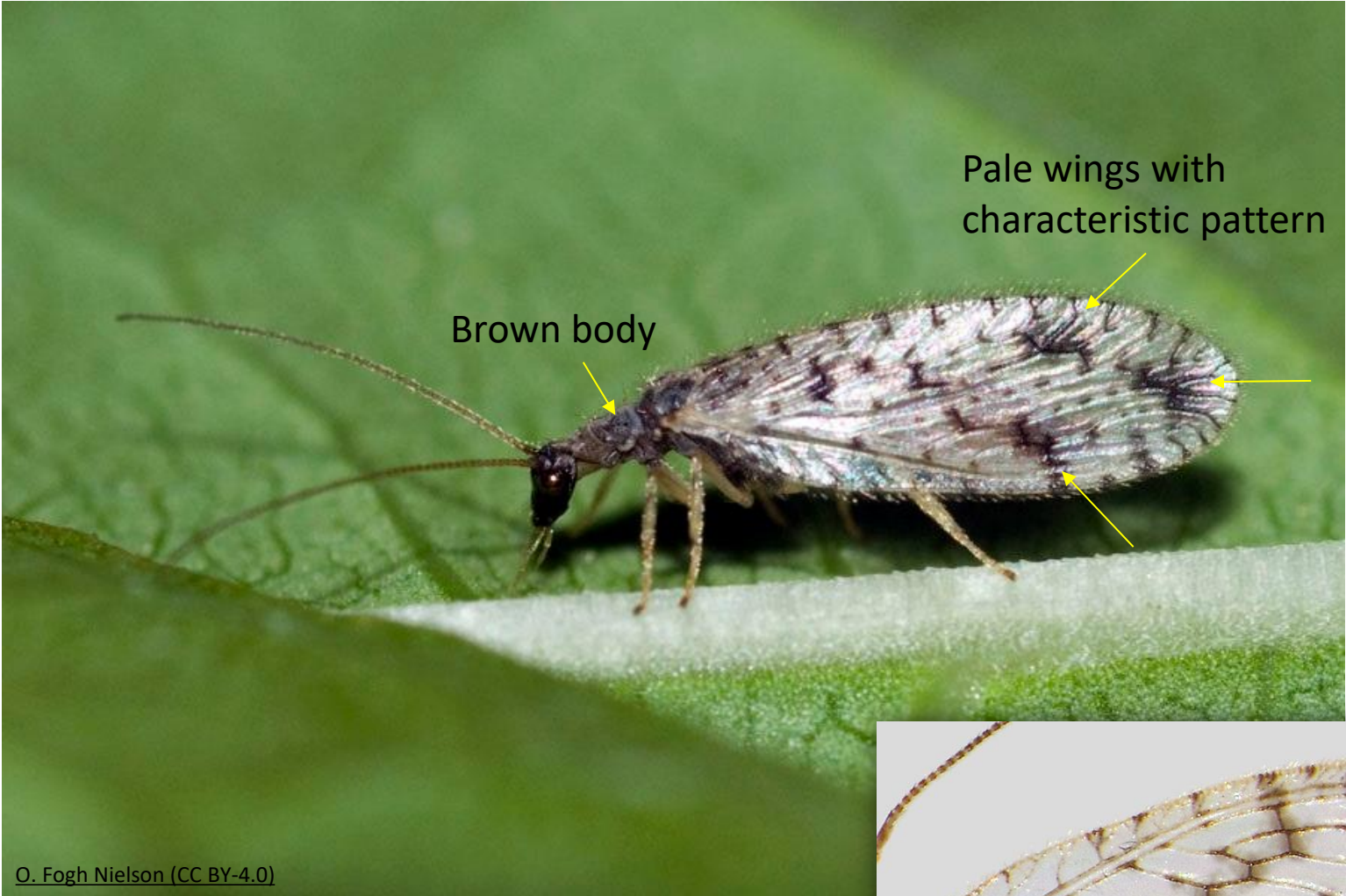


# *Drepanopteryx phalaenoides* Hooked-wing Lacewing



- Disjunct distribution – with centres in SE and N England  
Isolated records in Midlands, Scotland , Ireland, and Wales

# *Micromus variegatus* Spotted Brown Lacewing



O. Fogh Nielson (CC BY-4.0)



Humeral vein simple

- Widespread and common

T.Rintala & T. Lehto (CC BY-4.0)

# *Megalomus hirtus* Bordered Brown Lacewing

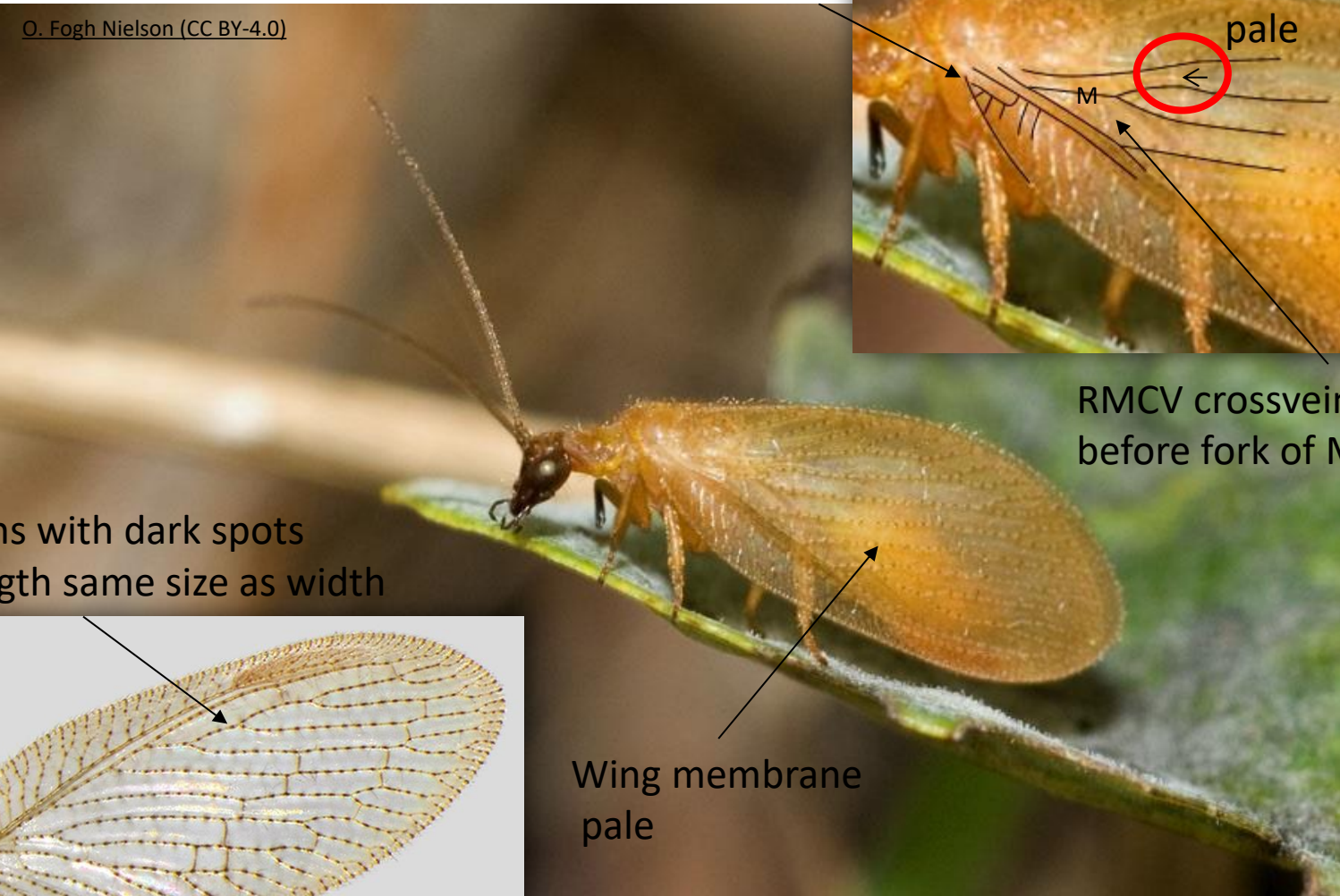


At least 6 branches of radial vein

Recurrent humeral vein

- Present in a few sites near Edinburgh
- Associated with Wood Sage

# Hemerobius nitidulus



Recurrent  
Humeral vein

MCCV  
pale

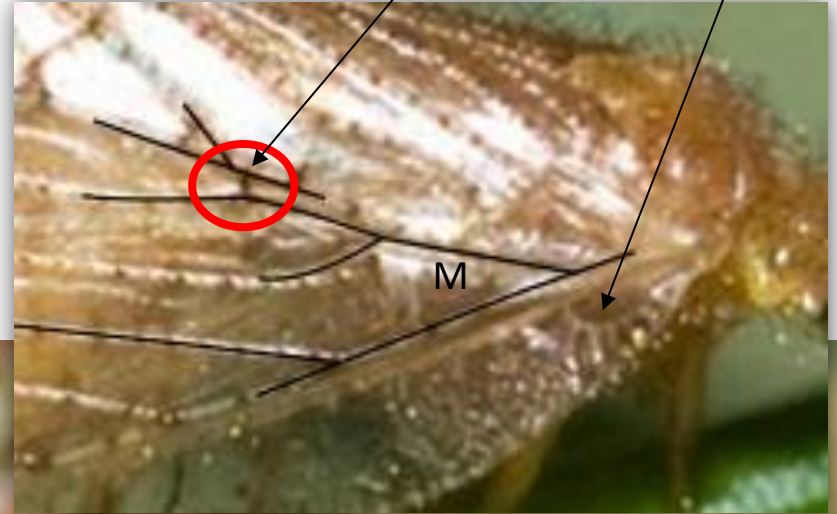
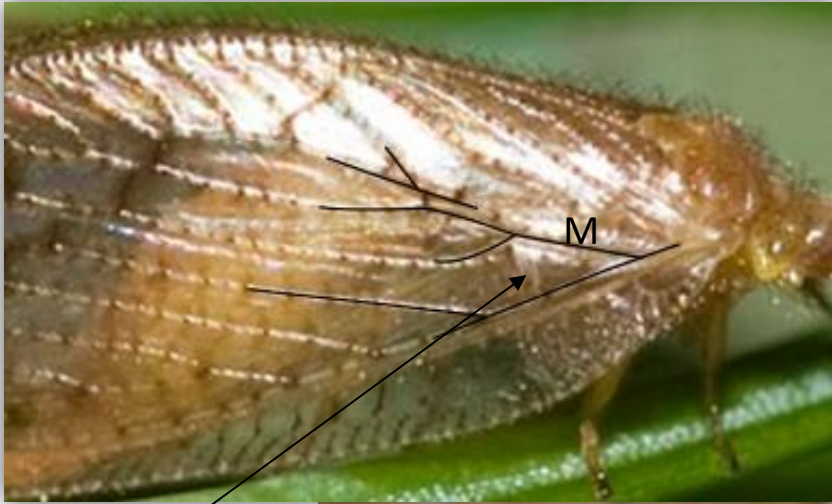
RMCV crossvein  
before fork of M

Veins with dark spots  
Length same size as width

Wing membrane  
pale

- Widespread but local
- Associated with Pines

# *Hemerobius stigma* Brown Pine Lacewing



RMCV crossvein  
before fork of M

- Widespread
- Associated with Scots Pine

Orange coloured pterostigma

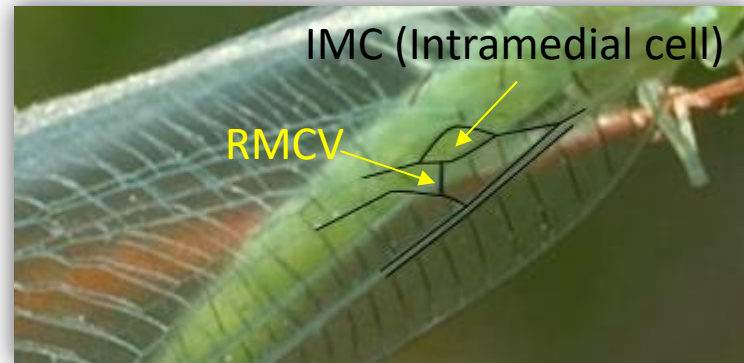
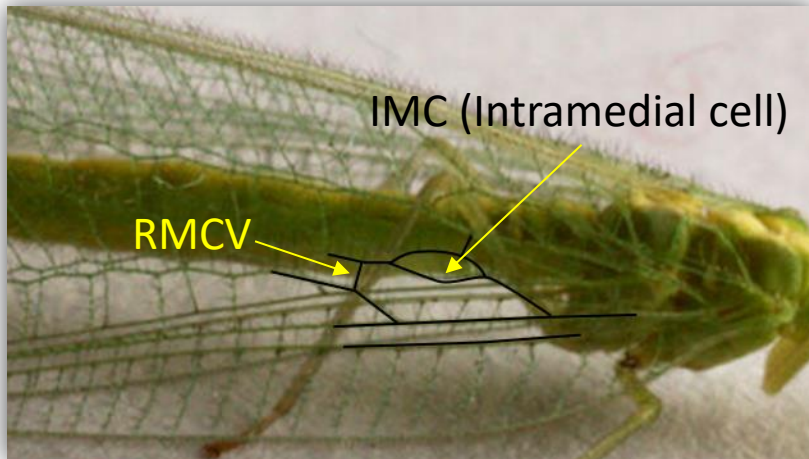


No pale thoracic stripe

Wing membrane with shading

# Chrysopidae *Green Lacewings*

- 21 species in British Isles
- A few species can be confidently identified from photographs or in the field
- Found in a variety of habitats
- Occasionally come to light





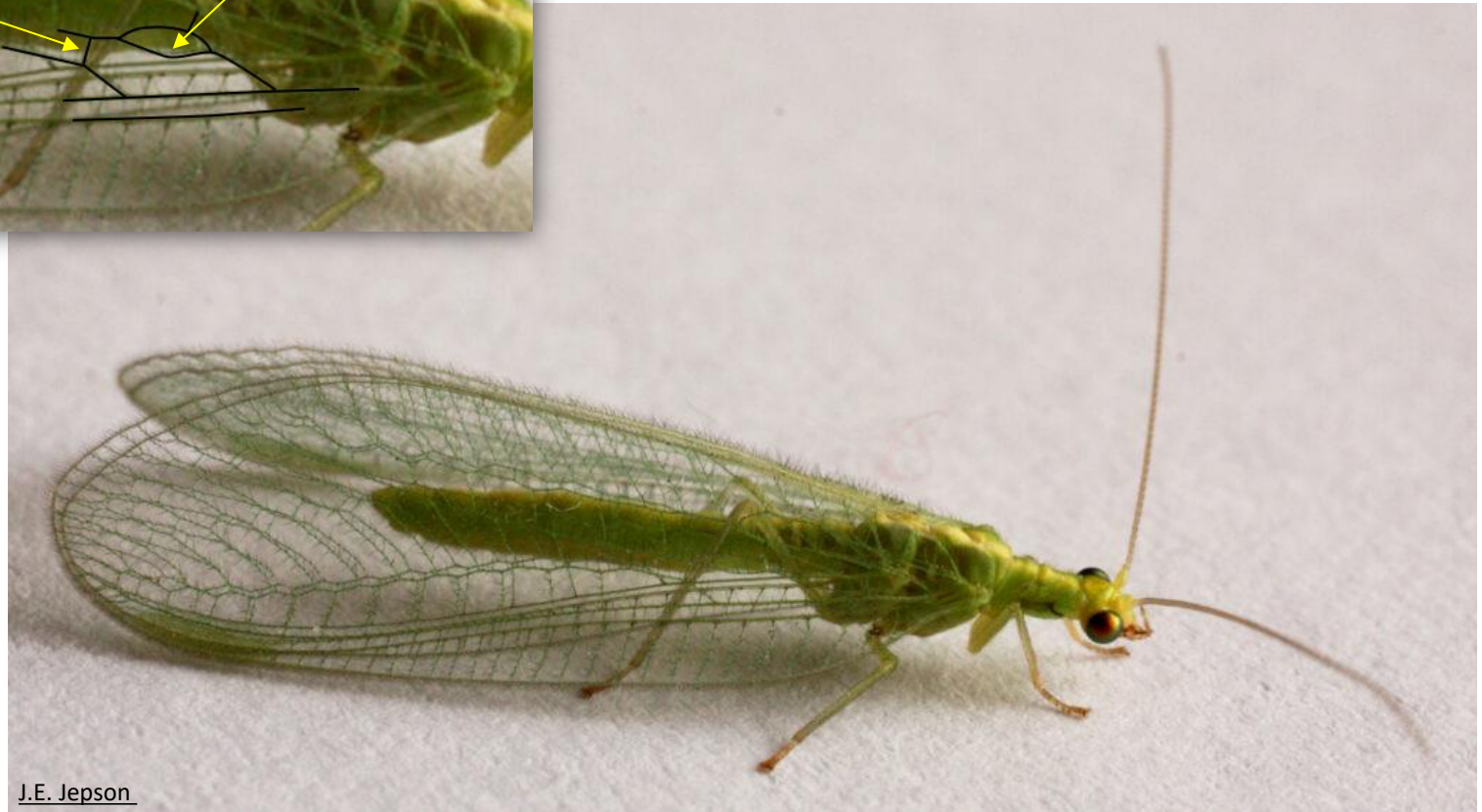
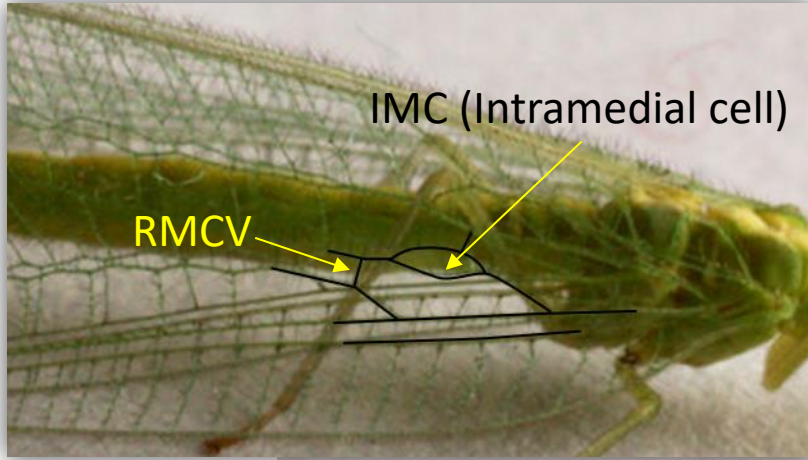
# *Chrysoperla carnea* group

Three species:

*Chrysoperla carnea*

*Chrysoperla lucasina*

*Chrysoperla pallida*



- Widespread

# *Nothochrysa capitata* Orange-headed Lacewing

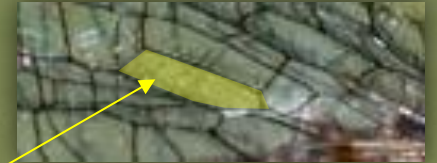
- Most common of the two *Nothochrysa* species

Spermatophore a package of sperm passed from the male to the female



Top of thorax red-brown no pale stripe

IMC (intramedial cell) rectangular



Orange head

- Widespread and local in England and Wales scarce in Scotland
- Often associated with Pines

# *Nothochrysa fulviceps* Scarce Orange-headed Lacewing

- Least common of the two *Nothochrysa* species

Orange head

IMC  
(intramedial cell)  
rectangular

Broad pale stripe on thorax



O. Fogh Nielson (CC BY 4.0)



- Relatively rarely recorded
- Associated with tops of mature Oaks

# *Chrysopa perla* Pearl Lacewing

Second antennal segment (pedicel) black



Head with extensive black markings  
Small pale circular area on top of head



RMCV

Blue-green colour

M. Krumbholz (CC BY-SA-3.0)



Dark under abdomen

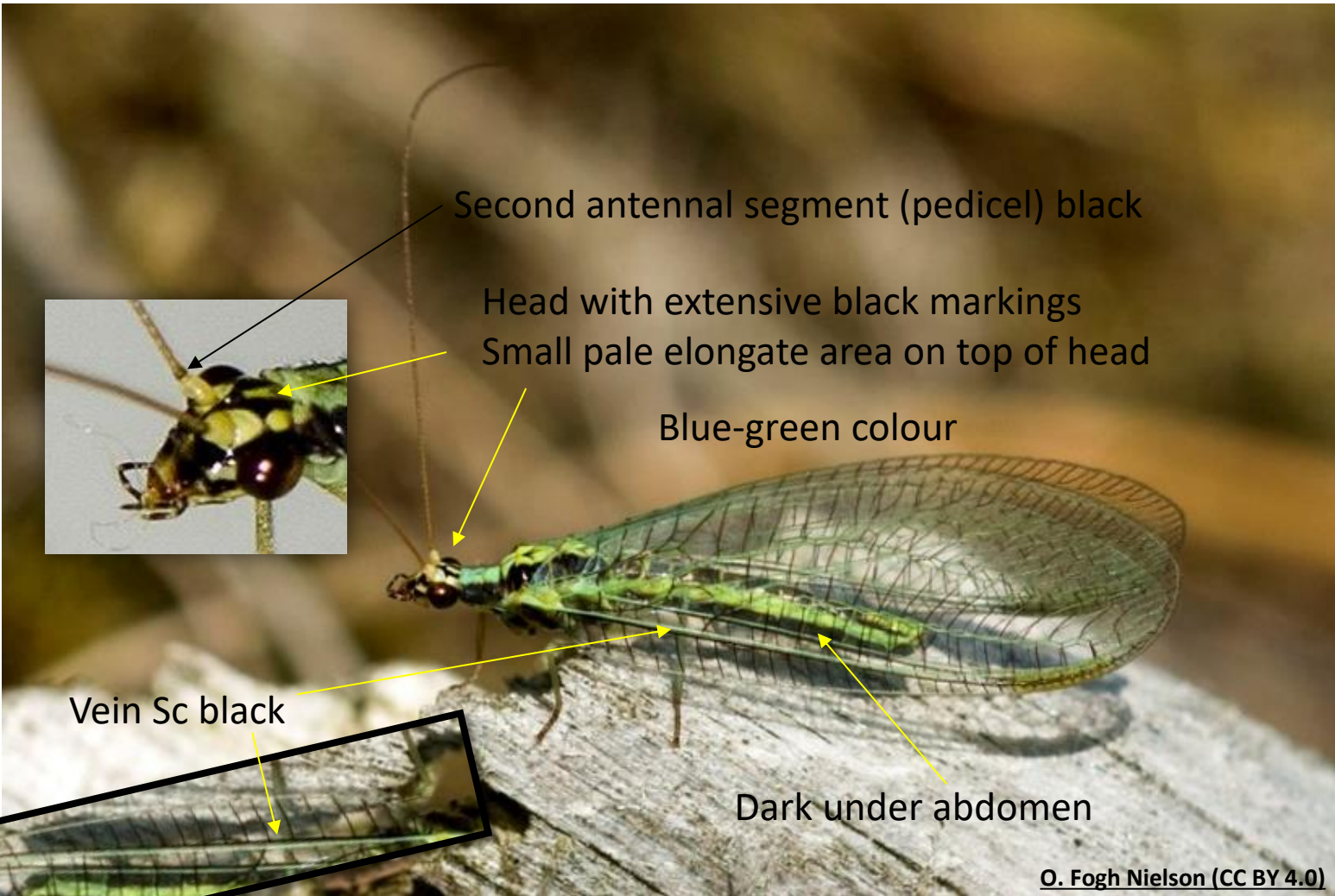


Vein Sc green

O. Fogh Nielson (CC BY-4.0)

- Widespread and common
- Associated with scrubby grassland and woodland edge habitat

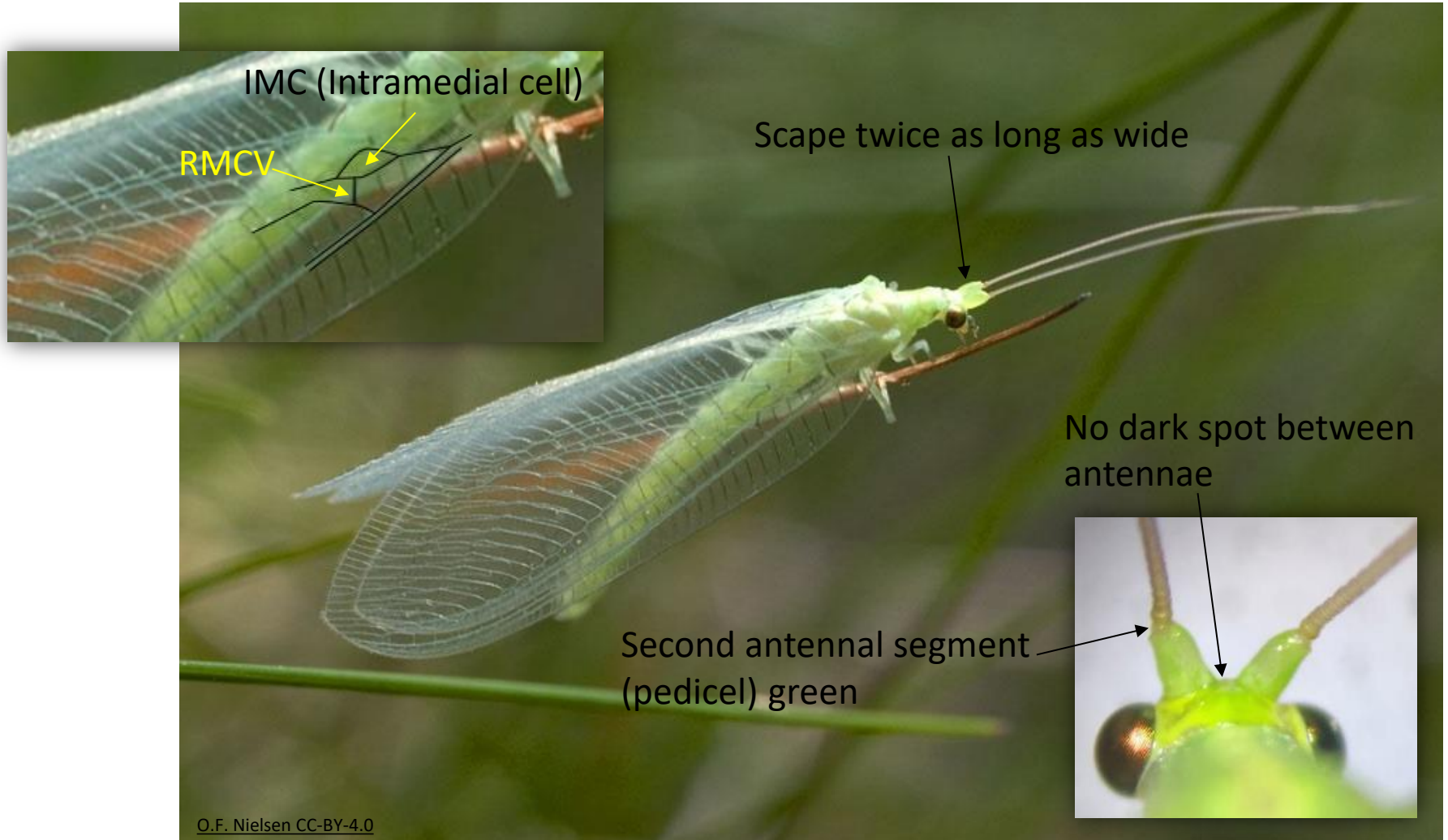
# *Chrysopa dorsalis* Pine Lacewing



O. Fogh Nielson (CC BY 4.0)

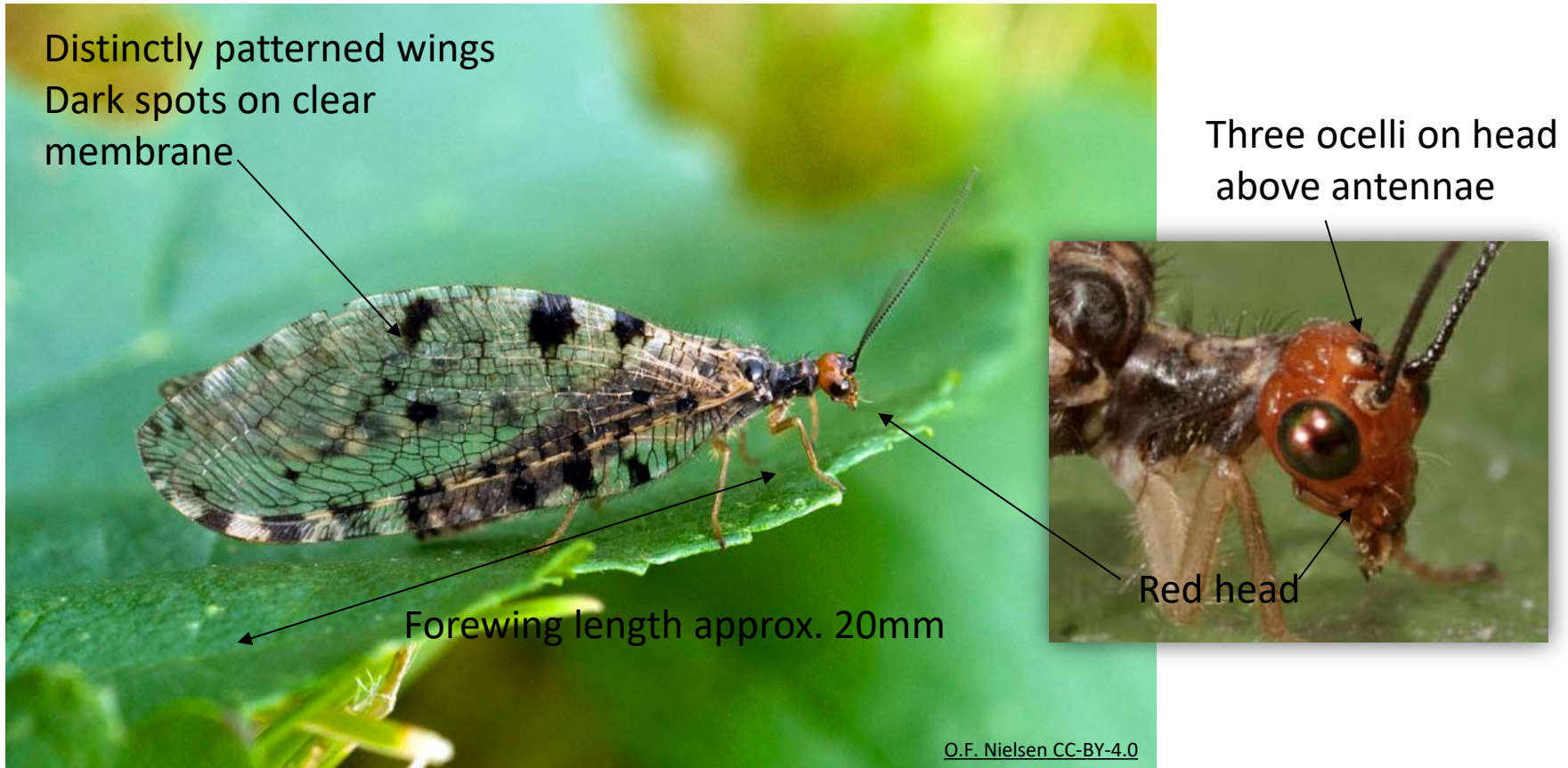
- Local and Rare
- Associated with Pines

# *Nineta vittata*



- Widespread and quite common

# Osmylidae *Giant Lacewings*



Only one species in British Isles: *Osmylus fulvicephalus*

- Widespread and common
- Larvae associated with water
- Adults found resting under horizontal surfaces, e.g. fallen trees, bridges
- Occasionally come to light traps

# Sisyridae *Sponge Flies*

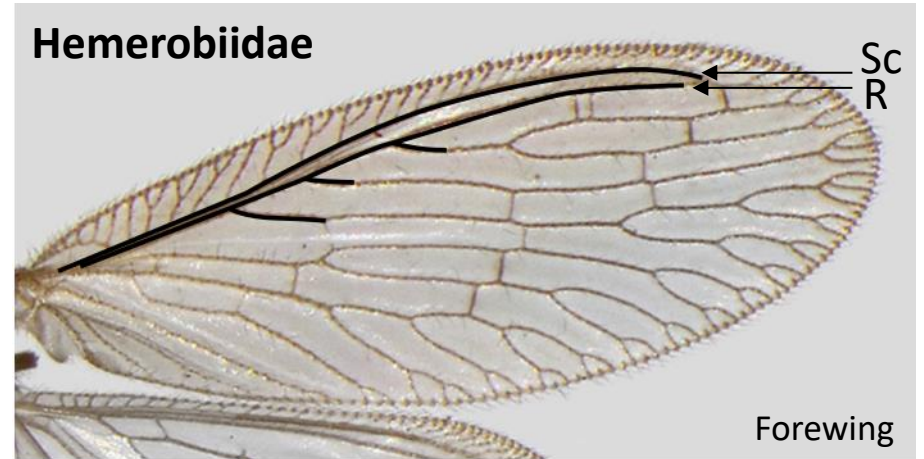
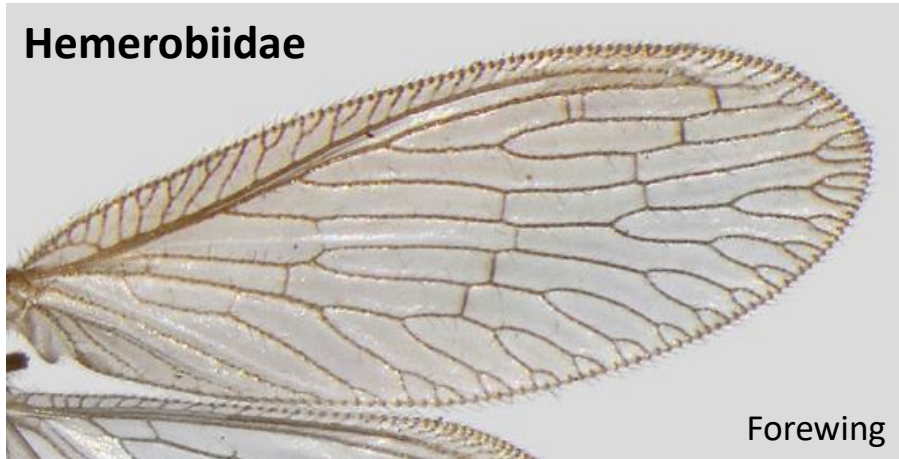
- Three species:
  - *Sisyra nigra*
  - *Sisyra terminalis*
  - *Sisyra dalii*
- All three species with practice can be identified from photographs or in the field
- However, they can be easily identified from their genitalia
- Larvae are associated with freshwater sponges
- Found on riverside vegetation
- Come to light traps





# Sisyridae *Sponge Flies*

- May be confused with Hemerobiidae:



# Sisyridae *Sponge Flies*

## *Sisyra nigra* Common Sponge Fly



- Widespread and common
- Static or slow water
- Host sponges:
  - Spongilla lacustris*
  - Ephydatia fluviatilis*



## *Sisyra terminalis*

- Rarest sponge fly, streams overhung by trees



## *Sisyra dalii*

- Local and scarce, fast-flowing upland rivers

# Myrmeleontidae *Antlions*

- Two species found in south of Britain
  - *Euroleon nostras* (Channel Islands, Suffolk)
  - *Myrmeleon formicarius* (Isle of Wight)
- Both are identifiable from photographs
- Larvae dig conical pits to catch prey



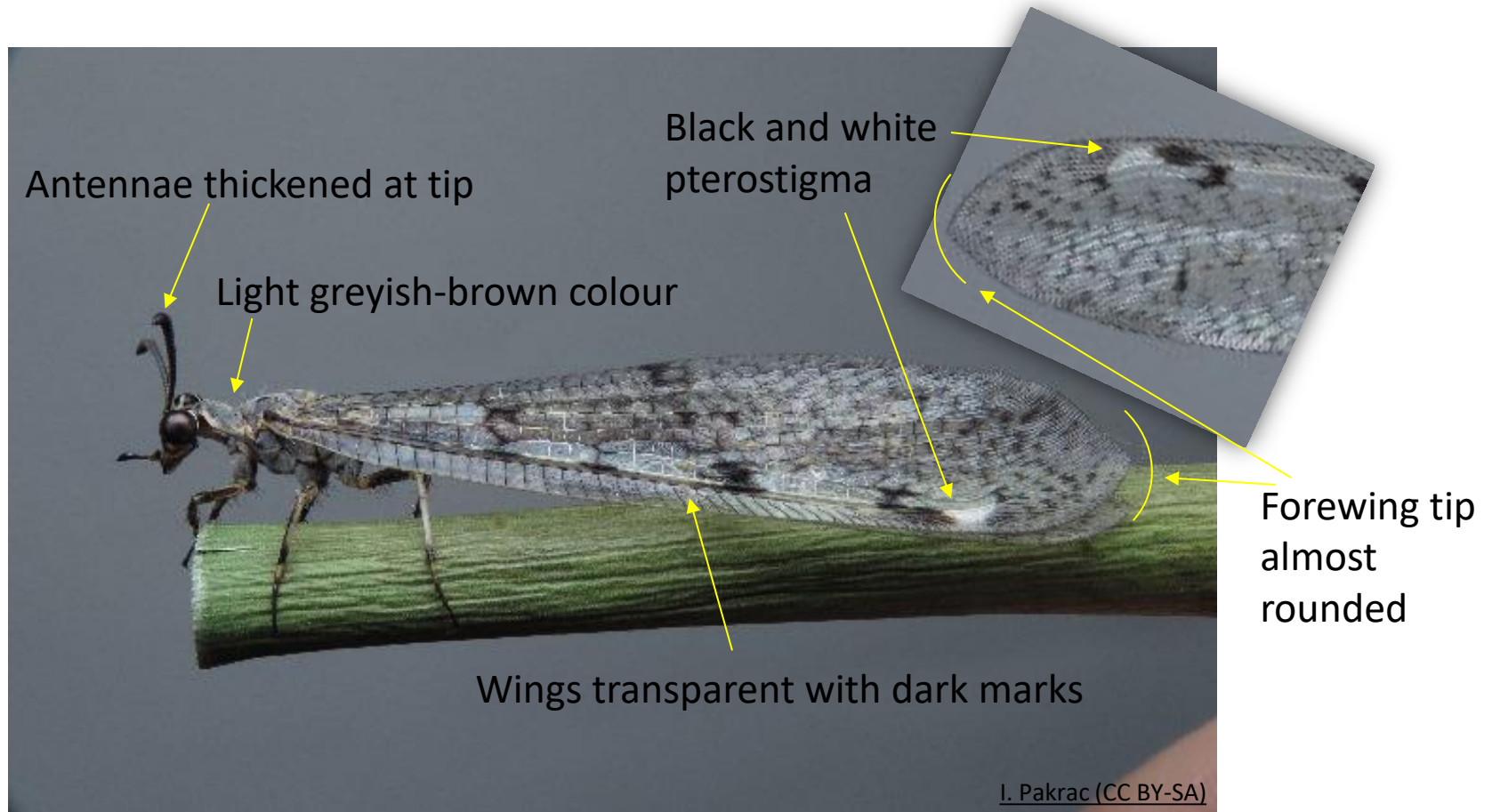
Antlion pit



G.S. Martin (CC BY-4.0)

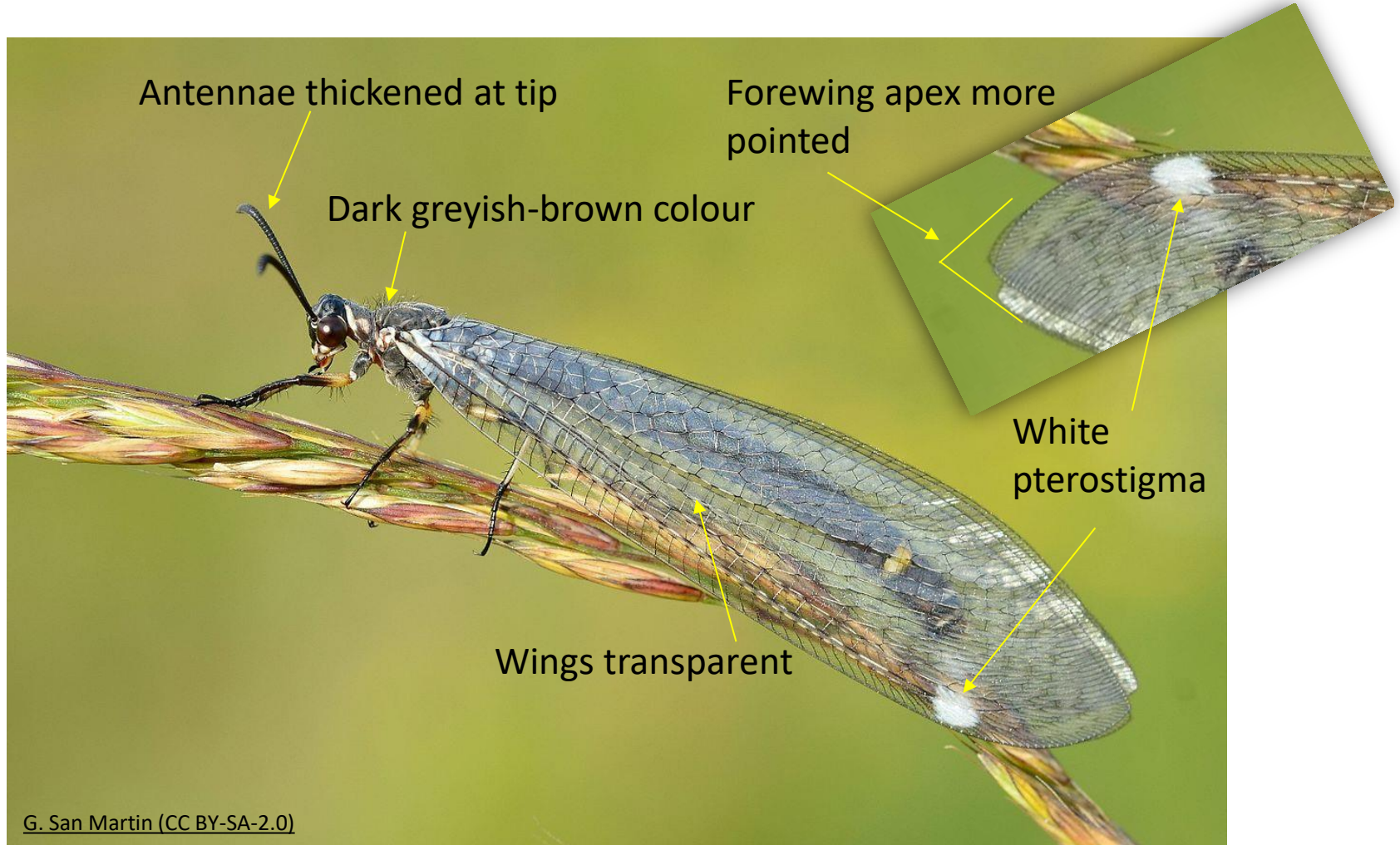
# *Euroleon nostras* Suffolk Antlion

- Most common of the two antlions



# *Myrmeleon formicarius* European Antlion

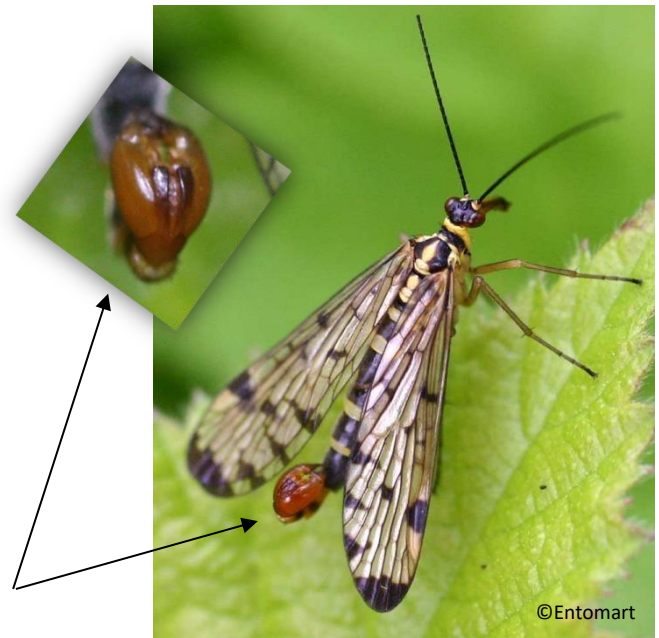
- One record from Isle of Wight possible visitor from Europe, may become established



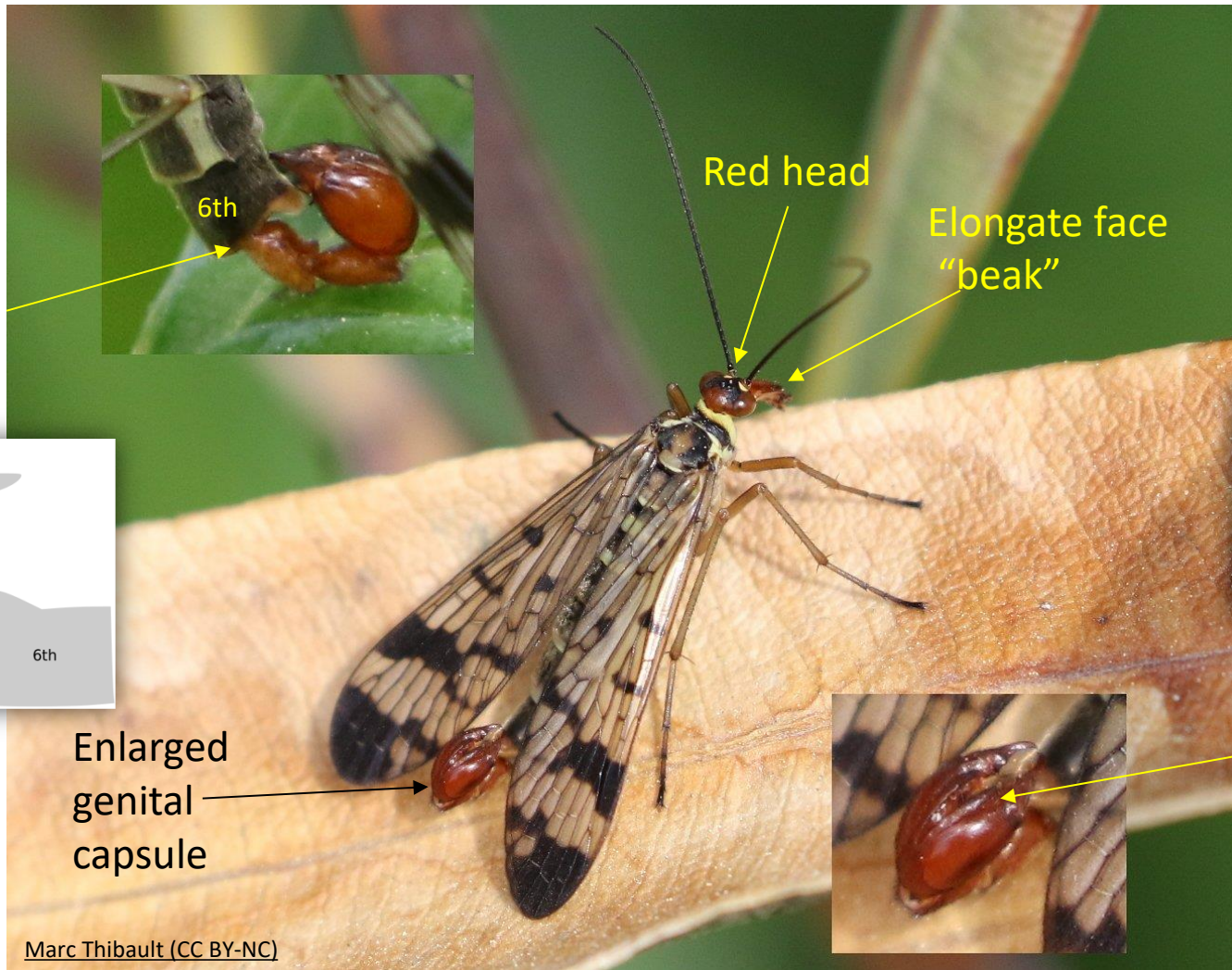
# Mecoptera *Scorpionflies, Snow Fleas*

- Male Scorpionflies can easily be identified from photographs (if in right orientation) and in the field
- Females require dissection to confirm identity
- May be possible to use wing patterns for identification
- Snow Fleas can easily be identified from photographs and in the field
- Scorpionflies often found in dense vegetation, e.g. Bramble
- Snow Fleas found in moss in upland areas - active in Winter

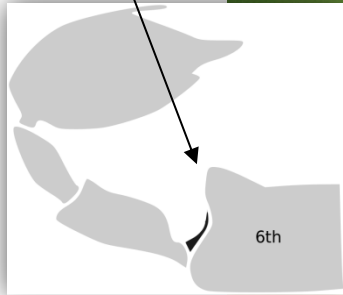
Genital capsule



# *Panorpa cognata* Scarce Scorpionfly



Broad tip  
to 6<sup>th</sup>  
abdominal  
segment

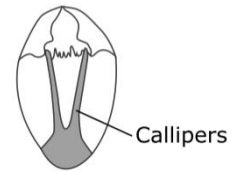


Red head

Elongate face  
"beak"

Enlarged  
genital  
capsule

Male genital capsule



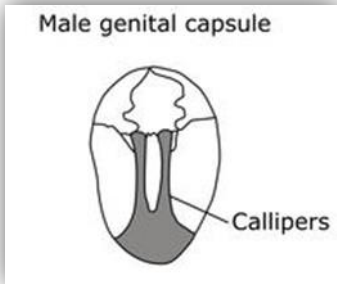
Callipers:  
Slender and  
diverging

Marc Thibault (CC BY-NC)

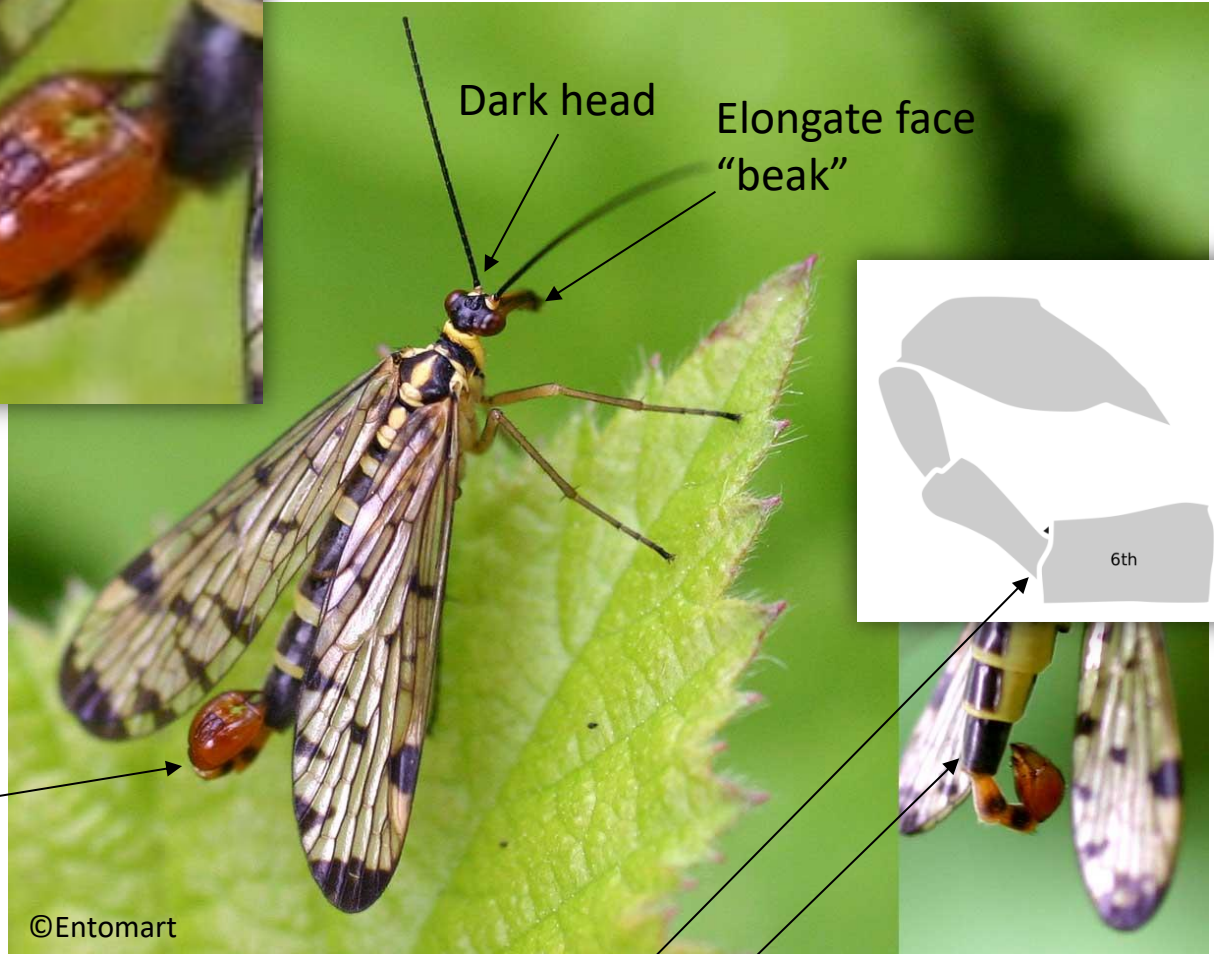
- Least recorded of the Scorpionflies, local in England and Wales, rare in Scotland

# *Panorpa germanica* German Scorpionfly

Callipers:  
Parallel, diverging  
slightly  
expanded at the tip,  
paddle like



Enlarged  
genital  
capsule



6<sup>th</sup> abdominal  
Segment tapering

- Widespread and common



# *Panorpa communis* Common Scorpionfly

© Leon Uppena  
Naturfotografie  
(CC BY-NC)

Callipers:  
Curved outwards  
at centre and converging  
at tips



Dark head

Elongate face "beak"

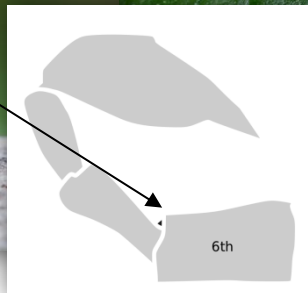
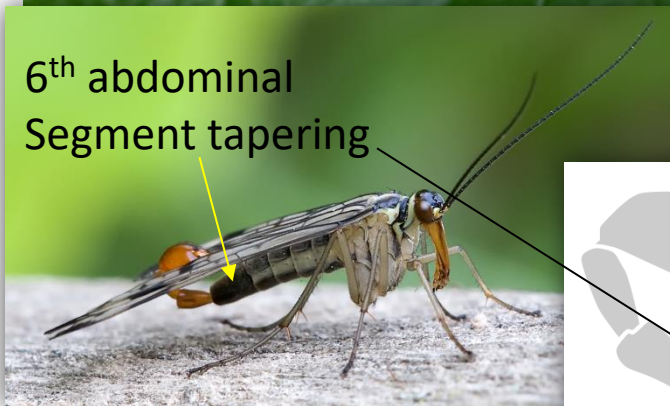
Enlarged  
genital  
capsule

Male genital capsule



Callipers

6<sup>th</sup> abdominal  
Segment tapering



- Widespread and abundant England and Wales, local and rare in Scotland

# *Panorpa vulgaris*

- Could possibly be present in British Isles
- Callipers similar to *P. communis*
- Major difference in wing pattern – basal spot



*Panorpa communis*



# Comparison of *Panorpa* species

*Panorpa communis*



*Panorpa germanica*



*Panorpa cognata*



Complete stripe  
Dark tip



Dark tip  
Spotted

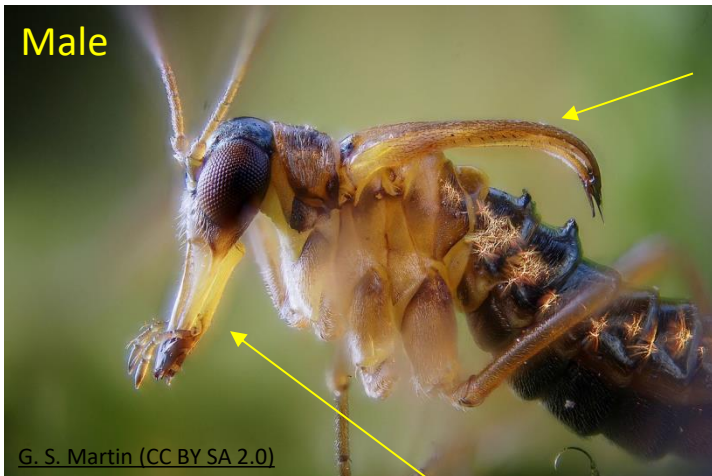


Partially dark tip  
Half stripe  
Few spots

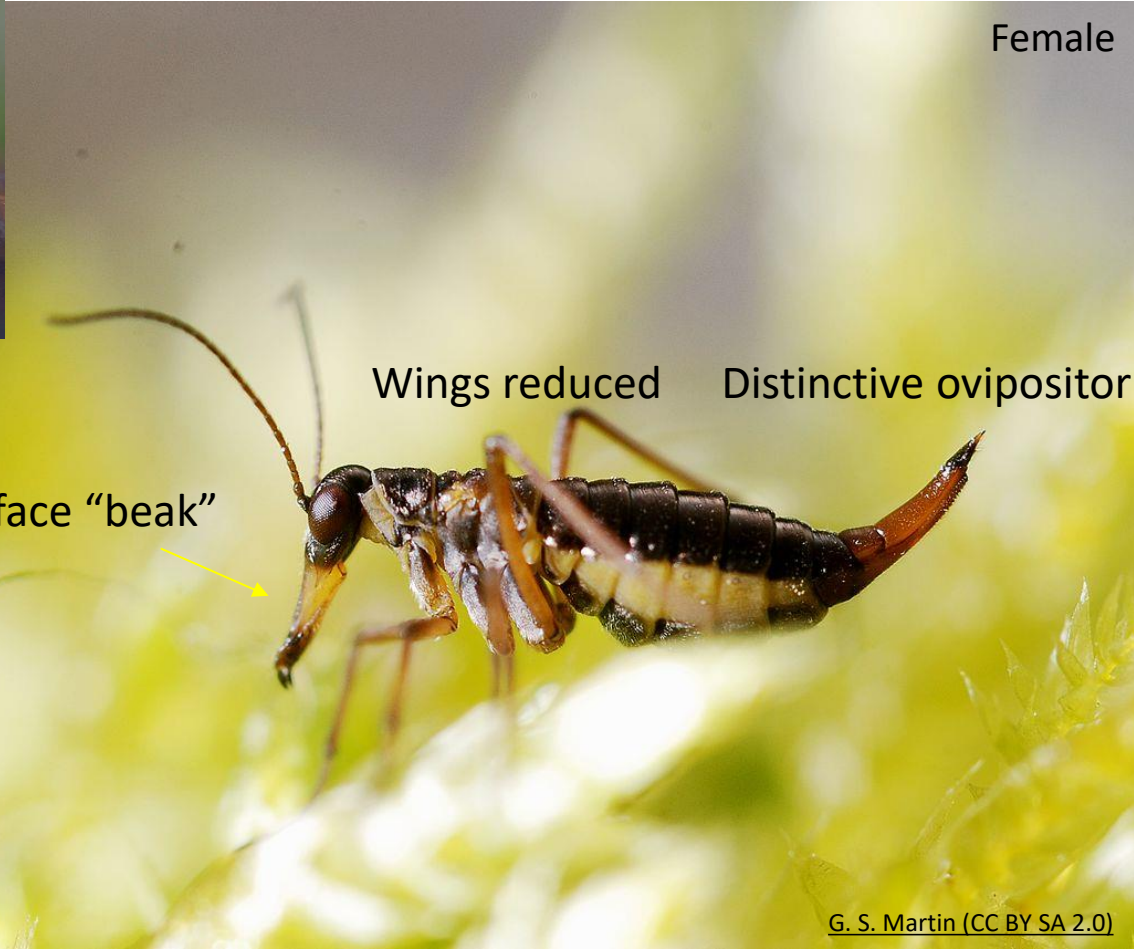


*borealis* form - reduced markings

# *Boreus hyemalis* Snow Flea



Forewing modified to spines



Elongated face "beak"

Wings reduced

Distinctive ovipositor

Small size: approx. 5 mm

- Widely distributed especially in upland areas, active in Winter

# Photography

C. Mondy (CC BY)



O. Fogh Nielson (CC BY-4.0)

## Neuroptera (Lacewings) and Raphidioptera (Snakeflies)

- A good in focus side view of the wings
- An image showing the top of the head and thorax

## Mecoptera (Scorpionflies)

- Males a good view of the calipers on enlarged genital capsule
- Image of wing pattern



©Entomart



# British Isles Lacewing and Allies Recording Scheme

Submitting your records:

- Email them to

**LacewingRS@gmail.com** or  
**colinwplant@gmail.com**

- Upload records onto **iRecord**



Help with identification:

- **iRecord** – I verify all British Isles records, and some counties also have their own verifiers
- Send specimens to me or Colin Plant for ID/verification – email **LacewingRS@gmail.com** or **colinwplant@gmail.com** for arrangements
- Email images to **LacewingRS@gmail.com**

Taxon	Site	GridRef	VC	Recorder	Determiner	Date	Quantity	Method	Sex	Stage	Comments
Species binomial	Ideally one featured on an OS map. Sites like "my garden" are not acceptable.	Min 4 figs	As a number	Name	Name of <i>highest</i> authority involved	dd/mm/yyyy separated by obliques as here	Number	How was it collected	M, F or U (unknown)	Adult, Larval etc	Free text

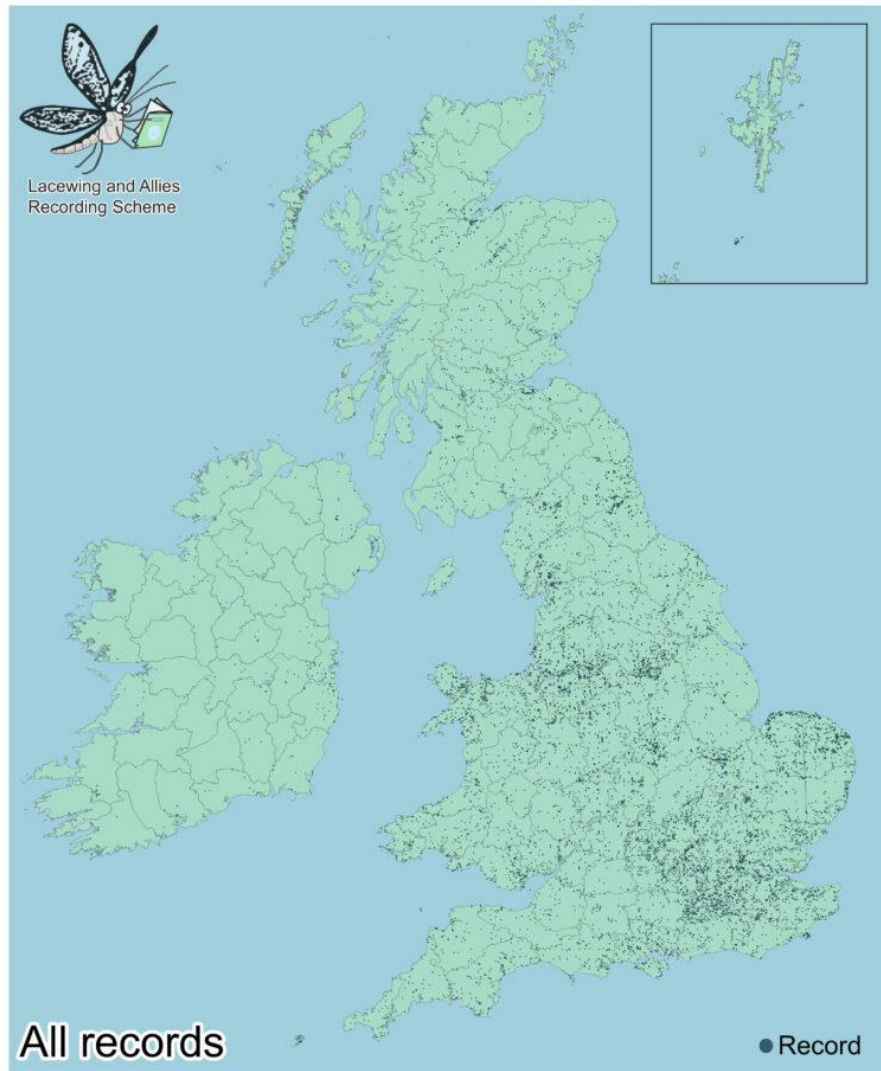
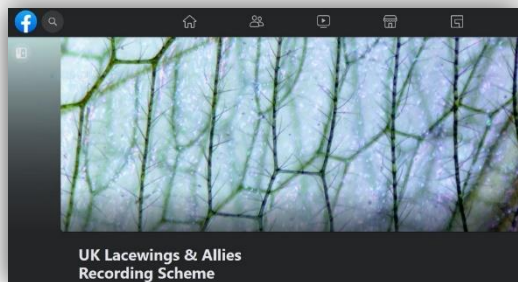


# British Isles Lacewing and Allies Recording Scheme

- Over 26,000 records from 1800-present
- Newsletter mailing list: 456
- Facebook group: 45 members
- If you want to be added to mailing list  
Email: [LacewingRS@gmail.com](mailto:LacewingRS@gmail.com)



Website:  
[LaARS.jamesjepson.com](http://LaARS.jamesjepson.com)



James E. Jepson, 2023

Record Coverage

# Part 2

- Identifying Lacewing and Allies with a microscope

