



## Class Insecta, Insects

### Order Hymenoptera, Ants, bees, and wasps

Hymenoptera means “membraneous wings.” The hind wings are smaller than the front wings and have a row of tiny hooks, hamuli, that attach the two wings. There are two suborders. The smaller suborder includes sawflies and horntails, which are phytophagous. Bees, wasps, and ants belong to the larger suborder, which includes nectar, pollen, and insect feeders. Hymenoptera is the second largest group of insects, most of which are beneficial. These insects undergo complete metamorphosis and have complex behaviors. Most parasitic wasps do not sting humans. All hymenopterans have chewing mouthparts.

## Ichneumonid wasps

Family Ichneumonidae

**Description and life history:** Adult ichneumonids are black with lighter-colored legs and usually slender, with the abdomen longer than the head and thorax combined. They have long antennae, with 16 or more segments. Females have a long ovipositor.

**Prey species:** Ichneumonids can be internal or external parasitoids, and attack hosts in the larval or pupal stages. Common hosts include beetles, caterpillars and wasps. *Hyposoter* species attack armyworms, cabbage looper, fall webworm, oakworms, tent caterpillars and tussock moths. *Eriborus terebrans* attacks European corn borer larvae.



Ichneumonid wasp adult. (350)

Photo: unknown



Ichneumonid wasp adult nectar feeding. (350)

Photo: Whitney Cranshaw



Ichneumonid wasp adult. (349)

Photo: unknown