



## Class Insecta, Insects

### Order Neuroptera, Lacewings, mantids and others

Neuroptera means “nerve wings” and refers to the hundreds of veins in their wings. The order Neuroptera is comprised of several small families. Larvae and adults are usually predaceous. Some families are uncommon while others are present more in the south and west. All neuropterans have chewing mouthparts.

## Brown lacewings

Family Hemerobiidae

**Description and life history:** Adult brown lacewings look much like green lacewings, except they are smaller and brown, with hairy wings. Eggs are oval, white and laid singly, but not on stalks. The larvae are also similar. Larvae are small, gray, and slender, and have large sickle-shaped mouthparts with which to puncture prey. When they reach approximately 10 mm, they spin a silken cocoon and pupate on the underside of a leaf. There are one to ten generations per year.

**Prey species:** Brown lacewings are predaceous as both larvae and adults. They feed on soft-bodied arthropods such as mites, aphids, mealybugs, scales and whiteflies. They prefer cooler temperature and wooded areas and are less common than green lacewings.



Brown lacewing adult. (350)  
Photo: David Laughlin