

Investigate Using a Dichotomous Key

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5. Continue selecting the answer to the question on each new page until you reach a page that has no question. This page will show a picture of your insect, name the order it belongs to, and give its common name. The common name that follows the order to which your insect belongs.

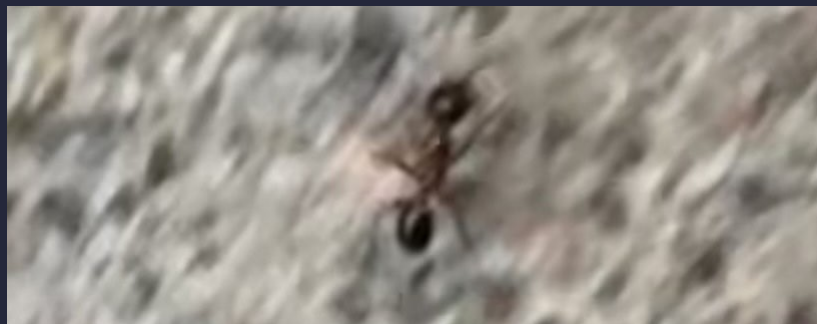


6. Record the name of the order our insect belongs to and its common name in the place provided under Data for Part 1. Then complete the list of answers you chose as you went through the key. Also list the characteristics that placed the insect in the order you identified.



Data for Part 1: Using a Dichotomous Key for Insects

- Photo or sketch of your insect:



12. Record the scientific name of your tree in the place provided under Data for Part 2. Then list the steps you chose as you went through the key, as well as the characteristics that placed the tree in the species you identified.



Data for Part 2: Using a Dichotomous Key for Trees

- Photo or sketch of your leaf and tree:



- Describe your leaf and tree in detail.

My leaf is an irregular ellipse with a dark green upper side and a light green lower side. My tree had a dark brown bark and short soft branches with many leaves.

- Identity of the tree your leaf came from:

My leaf came from a tree in the species *Ulmus alata*.

- List of steps chosen in the key you used:

1. Leaves are simple, alternately attached to twig
2. Leaves oval, round, or elliptical
3. Leaf edge double-toothed
4. Leaf base rounded or wedge-shaped
5. Leaves slightly hairy beneath; twigs “winged”

- What traits does the tree have that identify its species?

Traits that the tree has that identify it as its species are the traits I chose in the dichotomous key above. These traits are: having simple, alternately attached leaves which are oval, double-toothed, hairy on the bottom, and have a rounded/wedge-shaped base.

Analyze Data and Draw Conclusions

1. Was it easier to identify the insect or the leaf? Explain your answer.

It was easier to identify the leaf because it was easier to inspect the leaf than the insect due to the leaf being larger than the insect.

2. Describe how biologists would use dichotomous keys while observing nature. How useful do you think they are?

Biologists use dichotomous keys while observing nature by using them to identify unknown species quickly and easily. I think that dichotomous keys are extremely useful, not just for biologists/environmental scientists, but also for regular people. This is because to use a preexisting dichotomous keys, you don't need to have an extensive knowledge of species and biology.

