

## SCIENTIFIC CLASSIFICATION OF THE DRAGONFLY

Scientists divide animals into groups to help our understanding. Here's how the dragonfly gets grouped.

**Kingdom:** Animalia (animals)

**Phylum:** Arthropoda (jointed legs; or more precisely, "jointed foot")

**Class:** Insecta (insects)

**Order:** Odonata (dragonflies and damselflies)

**Family:** Libellulidae

**Genus:** *Trithemis*

**Species:** *Trithemis pallidinervis* (long-legged marsh glider)



The eyes can be compound or simple. Most insects have both types of eyes, but some only have one or the other. On its thorax, an adult insect has six legs. Beyond these common features, insects have differences, such as types of mouthparts, wings, and shape of antennae, that separate them into various groups.



Insects breathe through pores in their bodies called spiracles. (See the blue circles on the caterpillar above.) The spiracles lead to tubes called tracheae inside the body. Insects don't have lungs, but like other animals, they breathe by taking in oxygen and letting out carbon dioxide. In some cases, their muscles expand and contract to control the intake of air.