ENT 425 Spot ID Recognition Characters for the Major Orders of Insects

Order Key Characters

Collembola Furcula* and/or Collophore*; wingless

Thysanura 3 abdominal filaments of equal length; wingless;

body with scales

Archeognatha 3 terminal filaments (unequal); wingless

Odonata Rectangular stigma; large eyes; small antennae

Ephemeroptera 2 or 3 terminal filaments; large triangular front

wings, small round hind wings

Plecoptera Boxy thorax; thread-like antennae; cerci;

M-Cu crossveins

Orthoptera Tegmen; short cerci; jumping hind legs

thread-like antennae

Blattodea Brown, flattened, oval body with oval pronotum

Mantodea Long prothorax, narrow neck, raptorial front legs

Phasmatodea Long, slender body parts; prothorax shorter than

meso- or metathorax

Dermaptera Forceps-like cerci; short wing covers

Isoptera Ant-like; soft-bodied; light-colored and wingless

or dark with 4 similar wings

Thysanoptera Small, tapered body; fringed wings

Hemiptera Piercing-sucking mouthparts; hemelytra fold to

"X" on back, or uniform wings fold tent-like

Phthiraptera Minute; wingless; one large claw per leg if head is

small and conical: two small claws if head is

broad and rounded

Neuroptera Long antennae; heavy venation; C-Sc crossveins

Mecoptera Long snout; scorpiontail in male*; coiled tarsi*

Coleoptera Elytra meet in line down center of back

Siphonaptera Laterally flat; wingless; pronotal and/or genal combs

Diptera Two wings; halteres

Trichoptera Hairy wings held tent-like over body at rest

Lepidoptera Scaly wings with large surface area; coiled proboscis

Hymenoptera Narrow waist*; sting*; triangular stigma*

^{*} Not present in all families of the order