

Embiidina

Common Name: Webspinners.

Etymology: Embio- = lively.

Metamorphosis: Hemimetabolous.

CHARACTERISTICS

Body: Minute to small, cylindrical, elongate, soft-bodied insects.

Head: Relatively large, prognathous head.

Mouthparts: Ectognathous; chewing.

Eyes: Compound eyes large in male, smaller in female; no ocelli.

Antennae: Filiform, shorter than body.

Wings: Some males with 2 pairs of membranous wings of nearly equal size and shape; some males and all females apterous; wings held flat over the body at rest.

Legs: Short and stout; first tarsal segment of front leg enlarged, containing silk glands; femur of hind legs enlarged; 3-segmented tarsi; 2 tarsal claws.

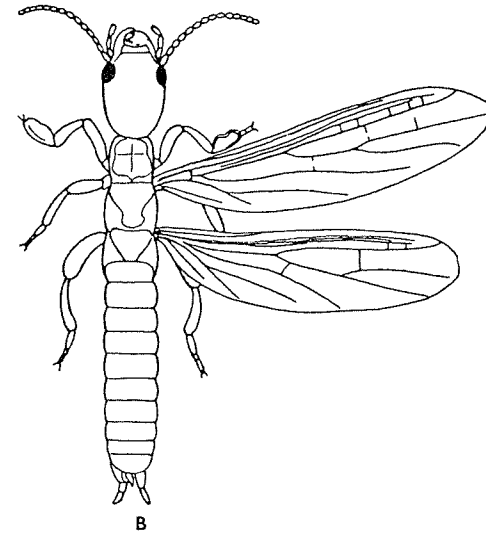
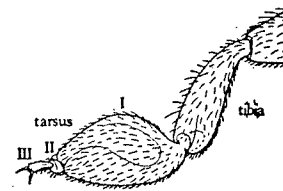
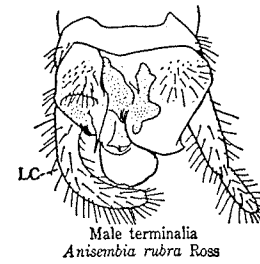
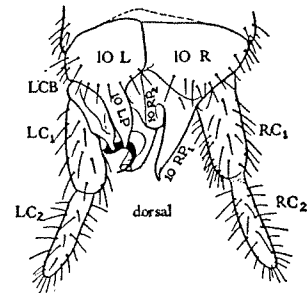
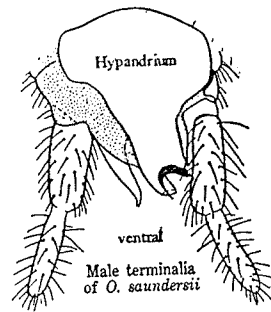
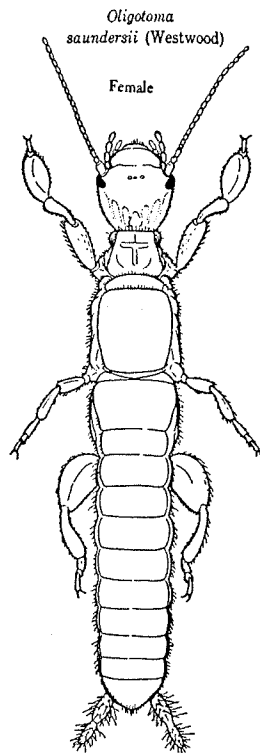
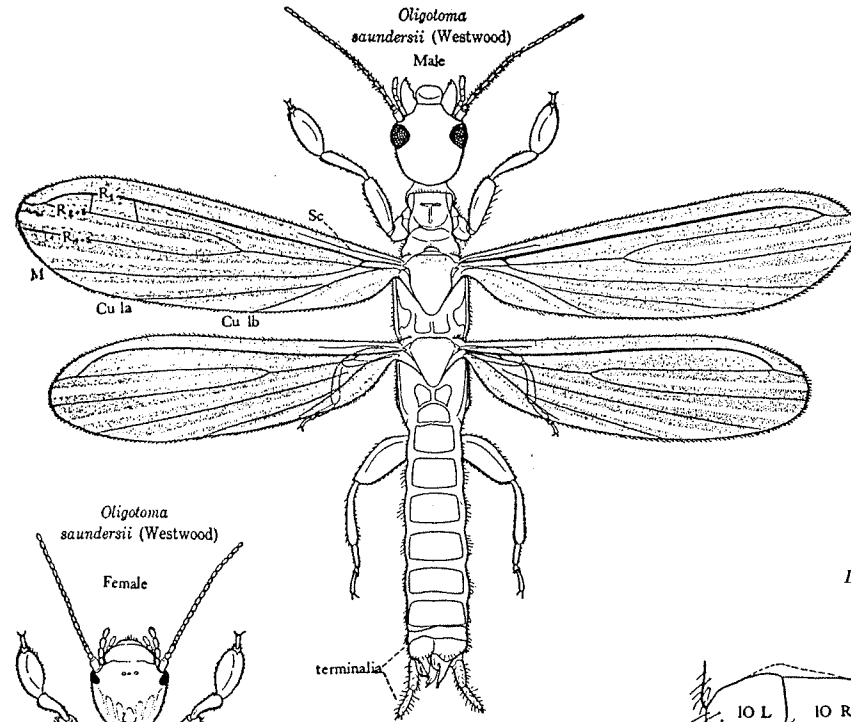
Abdomen: Cerci 1 or 2-segmented, sometimes unequal in males.

Comments: Webspinners are uncommon insects, most of which occur in the tropics. They are called webspinners because they live in a network of silken tunnels beneath stones, bark, or debris. They feed mainly on decaying plant matter. They can run both frontwards and backwards in their tunnels. At least one species is parthenogenetic.

FAMILIES

Anisembiidae, Oligotomidae, and Teratembiiidae.

Embiidina Webspinners



Embia sp. — A, aptère; B, mâle ailé (d'après ENDERLEIN).

