

Zoraptera

Common Name: Zorapterans.

Etymology: Zor- = purely; -aptera = wingless.

Metamorphosis: Hemimetabolous.

CHARACTERISTICS

Body: Minute, pale, soft-bodied insects somewhat resembling termites.

Head: Hypognathous, free and relatively large.

Mouthparts: Ectognathous; chewing.

Eyes: Compound eyes and dorsal ocelli in winged forms; both lacking in apterous forms.

Antennae: 9-segmented, moniliform or filiform.

Wings: 2 pairs when present; membranous, forewing largest; shed along breakage line at base; wingless forms most common.

Legs: Short, with 2-segmented tarsi and paired tarsal claws.

Abdomen: Short 1-segmented cerci, terminating in a long bristle.

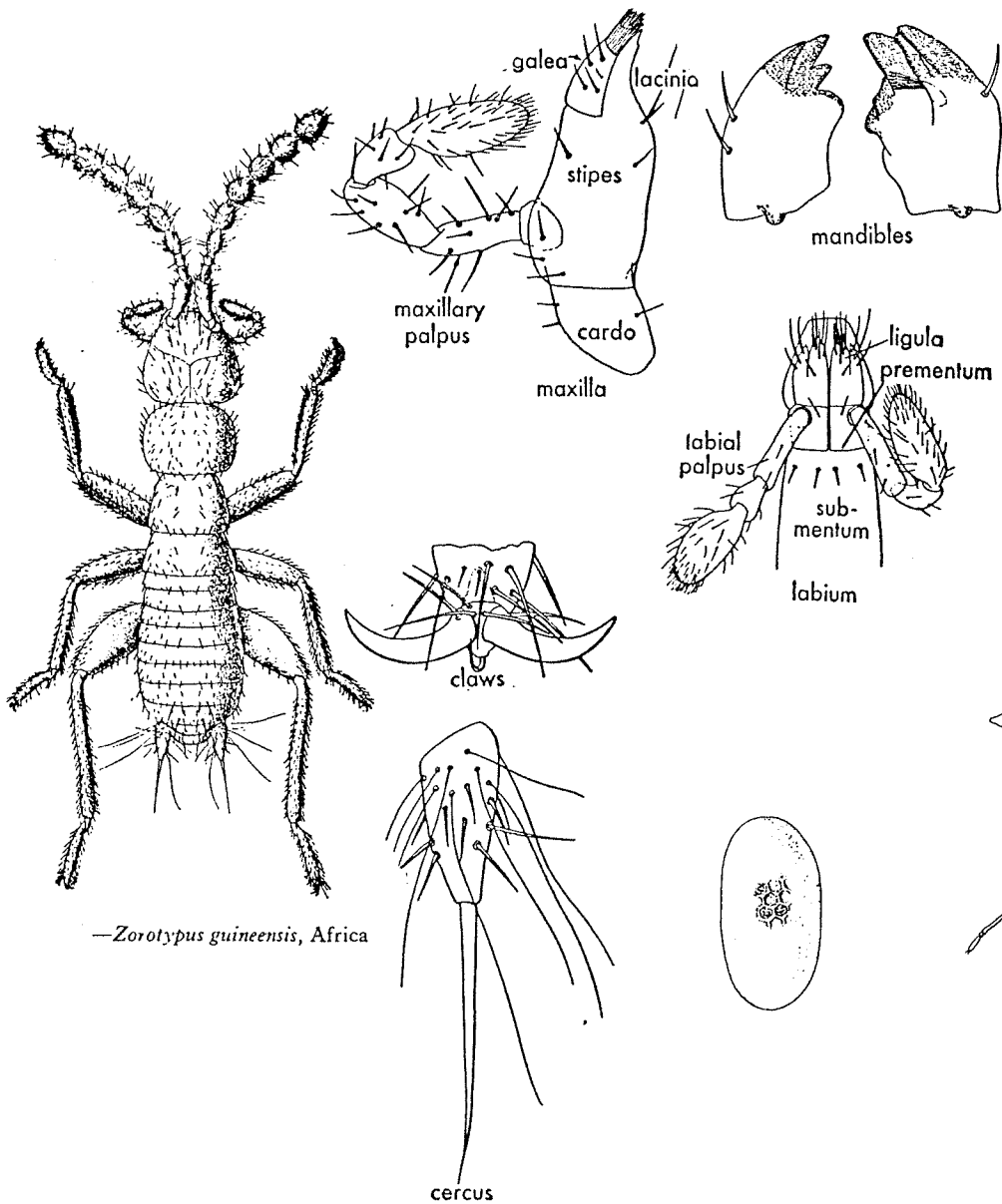
Comments: This is the smallest order in the class Insecta, 20 spp. worldwide, all in the family Zorotypidae. Found in decaying wood, sawdust, under stones and bark, and in termite nests. They are gregarious, but apparently lack a social structure. They are significant in that they provide a link between the orthopteroid orders and the hemipteroid orders by similarity with the Psocoptera.

FAMILIES

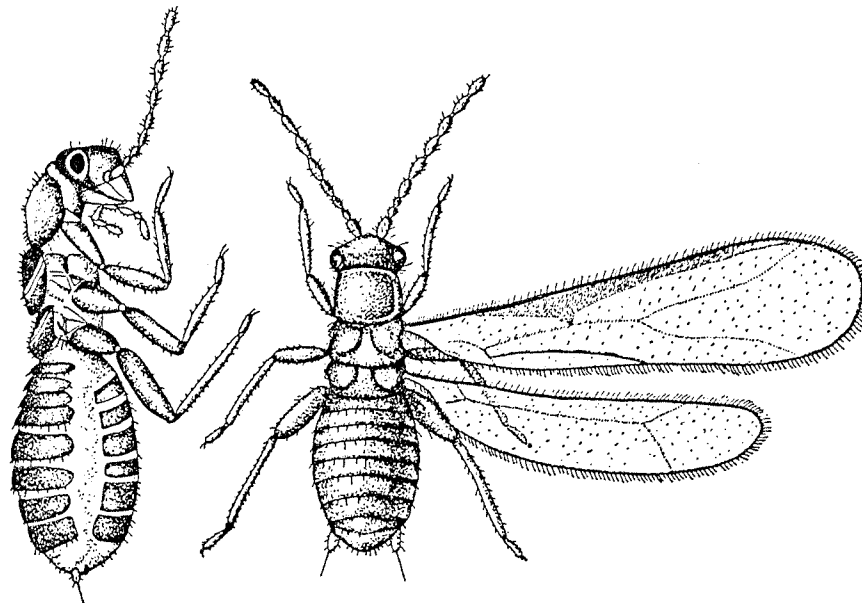
Zorotypidae.

Order Zoraptera

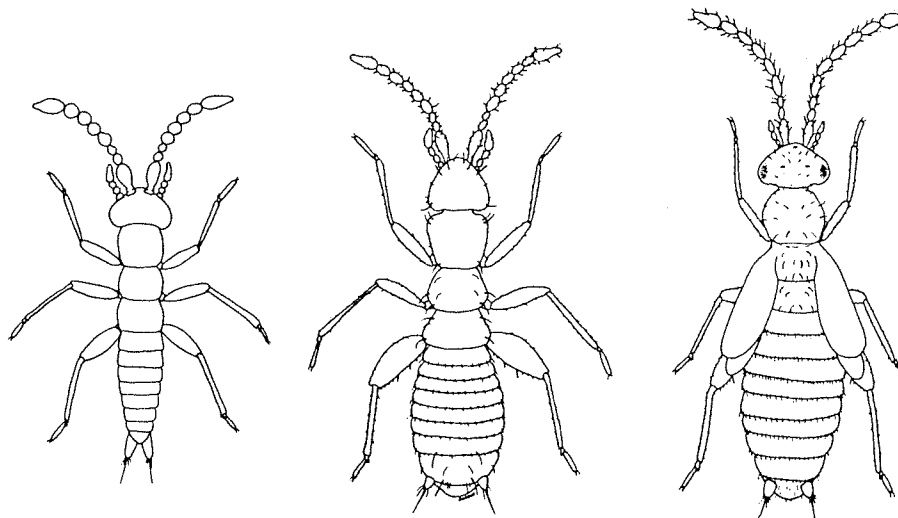
Zorapterans



—*Zorotypus guineensis*, Africa



De-lated and winged females of *Zorotypus hubbardi* Caudell.



Zorotypus hubbardi Caudell: