

CLASSIFICATION

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Arthropoda

Class: Insecta

**Order: Lepidoptera**

Family:

Subfamily:

Genus:

Species:

# Order:

## *Lepidoptera* – part a Moths

Both Moths and Butterflies make up the order *Lepidoptera*. For part a we look at Moths.

Currently there are over 22,000 species of *Lepidoptera* in Australia with over 10,000 species being that of moths. World-wide there are over 160,000 species of *Lepidoptera*.

Moths can be identified, for the most moths fold their wings roof wise or rest with their wings laid out flat. The antennae of most moths are feathery. Some female moths do have thread-like antennae. Their body is covered in tiny, fish like scales.

Moths can be found Australia wide. The largest moth in the world is the Australian Hercules moth – *Coscinocera hercules*. This moth has a wing span of 32 cm.

Moths undergo a complete metamorphosis. When a fresh caterpillar hatches from an egg it eats the leaves on which the eggs were laid on. Before reaching the stage of full growth a moth caterpillar will shed its exoskeleton a number of times, this varies greatly between different moth species.

Adult moths have a moth part which is like a tube and called a proboscis. The adult moth use this tube to suck nectar from flowers. Some moths do not feed at all in the adult stage, one such moth is the Hercules moth which lacks any mouthparts. It only lives for 10 to 14 days, in which



↑ Stick insect eggs are well camouflaged when dropped on the ground. They come in a myriad of shapes and sizes with most looking like plant seeds.

↓ Some stick insects rest under the leaves. Here they camouflage like the veins of a leaf.



