

# Hemiptera:

**\*Key to the Families of Hemiptera starts on page 273**

## **Families you should know for the final practical:**

Coreidae: leaf-footed bug

Rhopalidae: box-elder bug

Pentatomidae: stink bug

Gerridae: water strider

Corixidae: water boatmen

Notonectidae: backswimmer

Nabidae: damsel bug

Tingidae: lace bug

Cicadellidae: leaf hopper

Membracidae: tree hopper

Cercopidae: frog hopper

Cicadidae: cicada

Reduviidae: assassin bug

Berytidae: stilt bug

Belostomatidae: giant water bug

## **Comments about hemipterans and the key:**

Yes, I know it's long. I'm sorry!

The front wings (called hemelytra) of the Heteroptera (the suborder that contains the true bugs) are very distinctive: there is a hardened/thickened basal portion, and a membranous apical portion. The thickened basal part of the hemelytron has two parts: the corium and the clavus (see Fig. 22-4 for a good diagram). The wings are held flat over the abdomen at rest.

The front wings of the suborder Auchenorrhyncha have a uniform texture, either membranous or slightly thickened. (That's why they are sometimes called Homoptera.) The wings at rest are held roof-like over the body.

There will be no families from the suborder Stenorrhyncha on the practical.

Counting beak segments and antennal segments can be tricky. Do your best, and recognize that that might be where you go wrong!

Pentatomidae is tricky - they have 5-segmented antennae. (The first segment is small and close to the head.)

*Couplet 1:* separates Suborder Heteroptera (i.e. true bugs) from the Auchenorrhyncha and Stenorrhyncha.

*Couplet 4:* none of our samples have constricted heads. Go to 6.

*Couplet 15:* Apical claws come off the tip. Ante-apical claws come off before the tip (fig 22-3 C,D). Surface skimmers (e.g. water striders) have ante-apical claws.

*Couplet 65:* Don't worry too much about it. All of our samples are in the superfamily Cicadoidea. Go to couplet 76.

Our Reduviidae specimens aren't in great shape, but they're pretty easy to distinguish because they have a groove in their prosternum.

Hoppers are hard to tell apart:

Leaf hoppers have one or more rows of spines.

Frog hoppers have 2 large spines and a crown of short spines.