

The Eyes are large and prominent, one on each side of the head. They may be widely separated, almost touching, barely touching at one point only, or meeting for some little distance. The size of the eyes and their prominent position on the head accounts in large degree for the wariness of these insects.

The Wings are long and narrow as compared with those of butterflies. In the active Dragon-flies the hind wings are quite broad at their base (next the body), while in the weaker Damsel-flies they are narrowed at the base.

In all Odonata there is a notch-like or joint-like structure on the front edge of the wings about mid-way its length; the *nodus*.

The *pterostigma* (which is absent in some Odonata) is a distinct, hardened or conspicuously coloured small patch on the front edge of the wing between the nodus and the tip of the wing, usually nearer the latter. Examine a specimen carefully and you will plainly see the framework of the wing:—hardened black lines called *veins*, which support the thin *membrane* of the wing. Note that in the front part of the wing there are several strong veins running lengthwise. The very front margin of the wing itself is a strong vein, which extends all the way around the wing. The next of these lengthwise veins usually only extends to the nodus, and between it and the vein which forms the margin of the wing are a number of small veins running perpendicularly between the two:—this is the *first series of antenodal veins*, so called because they come (starting at the base of the wing) *before* the nodus. Between this second lengthwise vein which stops at the nodus and the *third* lengthwise vein which runs right on past the nodus to the pterostigma, is the *second series of antenodal veins*. Now, sometimes these two series of antenodal veins correspond: that is, one of the second series is continuous with one of the first series, as if it were one continuous antenodal vein running from the margin of the wing to the third lengthwise vein. In other cases these two series of antenodal veins do not at all correspond, and only rarely will you find a vein which is continuous from the margin to the third lengthwise vein.

Now, upon the characters which we have just discussed—(1) the position and relation of the eyes; (2) the shape of the hind wings and (3) the correspondence (or lack of it) between the two series of antenodal veins—we may construct an easy table for separating our Odonata into their six families.

- A. Eyes wide apart, projecting from the head,—the hind wings narrow at base, and the wings held vertically over the back when not in use. (Damsel-flies.)