|  |
| --- |
| **Thorax** |

Lab5

The insect thorax is divided into three parts: the prothorax (pro=first), mesothorax (meso=middle), and metathorax (meta=last). Each segment consists of hardened plates, or sclerites. Dorsal sclerites are called nota (sing. notum) (pronotum, mesonotum, and metanotum), lateral sclerites are called pleura (sing. pleuron), and ventral sclerites are called sterna (sing. sternum) (prosternum, mesosternum, and metasternum)..

Each of the three thoracic segments contains one pair of legs. Wings are found only on the meso- and metathoracic segments.

**The Thoracic Appendages**

1-**Legs**

Most insects have three pairs of walking legs - one pair on each thoracic segment. Each leg contains five structural components (segments) that articulate with one another by means of hinge joints:

**1-** **Coxa** **2-** **Trochanter** **3-** **Femur** **4-** **Tibia** **5-** **Tarsus**



The term **pretarsus** refers to the terminal segment of the tarsus

**Leg Adapations and Modifications:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Characteristic** | **Appearance** | **Example(s)** |
| **Walking legs**-- adapted for walking | C:\Users\master\Desktop\download.jpg | All legs Cockroaches  |
| **Raptorial**(grasping)femur spinose and possess a central longitudinal groove.Tibia narrow, blade like spinose and fits into the groove of femur adapted for catching and holding prey | C:\Users\master\Desktop\download (1).jpg | Front legs Praying mantis |
| **swimming legs** -- Hind legs pad like. Tibia and tarsus short and broad having dense long marginal hairs. adapted for swimming  | Bug o'the Week – Water Boatmen and Backswimmers Rerun – Riveredge Nature  Centernatatorial | Hind legsWater beetles  |
| **digging legs** -- Tibia and tarsus short and broad with teeth adapted for digging in soil  | C:\Users\master\Desktop\download (3).jpgC:\Users\master\Desktop\download (2).jpg | Mole crickets  |
| **jumping legs** :- Femur and tibia elongated adapted for jumping  | C:\Users\master\Desktop\download (4).jpg | Grasshopper |
| **Clinging legs**:- Tibia possess tibial thumb.Tarsus single segmented and pretarsus with a single long curved claw  | **C:\Users\master\Desktop\download (6).jpgC:\Users\master\Desktop\download (5).jpg** | Head louse |
| **Cleaning legs:-** Tibia possess a movable spine, and the first tarsal segment with a semicircular notch**Collecting legs:-**first tarsal segment enlarged and possess short stiff hairs called pollen basket  | **C:\Users\master\Desktop\download (7).jpg**C:\Users\master\Desktop\download (8).jpghttps://encrypted-tbn2.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcRgu_BjUMRHCu9bHiYsO1NfBJZ3JpR5dqE-mMU0g1XSWqRPUjaY | Front leg honey beeHind legs honey bee |