Key to the sub-Orders of Hymenoptera

1. Abdomen broadly joined at the thorax		
Key to families of s.o. Chalastogastra (Sawflies, wood wasps, and horntails)		
1. Forewings with 3 marginal cells		
2. A distinct intercalary vein present between costa and subcosta		
3. Fore tibia with only 1 apical spur		
4. Parapsidal furrows present; slender forms		
5. Abdomen more or less compressed; cenchri absent (Stem Sawflies)		
6. Antennae strongly clavate apically; abdomen with distinct pleural sclerites and sharply, abruptly flexed under at the sides		
Key to families of s.o. Clistogastra		
(Bees, Ants, Wasps, etc.) In this suborder the thorax is composed of the "primitive" 3 thoracic segments and the first abdominal segment (propodeum) which is firmly attached to the wing-bearing portion of the thorax. The second (apparent first) abdominal segment is greatly restricted and forms the pedicel which connects the propodeum with the rest of the abdomen (the gaster)		
1. Wings present 2 Wings absent 28		
2. Hind wings without an anal lobe		
3. An erect "scale" or one or two "nodes" between the propodeum (thorax) and gaster (abdomen)		
4. Costal cell of front wing absent due to fusion of costa with intercalary vein; abdominal sternites membranous		
5. Front wing with 2 recurrent veins		

6. Gaster borne on the dorsal surface of the propodeum, far above the hind coxae
Gaster borne between the hind coxae or slightly above them
7. Front wings with the basal vein present and situated close to the stigma
8. Pronotum without posterior lobes, the lateral extensions reaching the tegulae
9. Second abdominal tergite or sternite, or both, laterally with submarginal "felt lines" (i.e., very dense pubescence regularly arranged in 2 rows, the pubescence of each row lying nearly at right angle to the other); female apterous. Usually heavily pubescent insects (Velvet ants)
"Felt lines" lacking on the second tergite or sternite of the abdomen. Winged insects (males and females). Yellow jackets and hornets
10. Wings longitudinally folded in repose; ovipositor recurved and carried along the middorsal line of the abdomen. Pronotum extends to the tegulae (<i>Leucopsis</i> and allies) Chalcididae
Wings not longitudinally folded in repose; ovipositor not recurved and not carried along the mid-dorsal line of the abdomen
11. Pronotum does not reach the tegulae, being separated from it by a chitinized sclerite, the prepectus; antennae elbowed with never ore than 13 segments; wings without closed cells
Pronotum extends to the tegulae; prepectus absent
12. First segment of hind tarsi one-fourth the length of the following segment; large insects; abdomen of female long and filiform, several times the length of the head and thorax together; abdomen of male much shorter and clavate
13. Front wings with a distinct stigma; costal cell narrow, elongate; costal vein strongly developed; abdomen petiolate, the second segment of petiole longerProctotrupidae Front wings without a distinct stigma; costal cell abnormally wide; costal vein very delicate, not developed; abdomen compressed or swollen dorsally (gall wasps) Cynipidae
14. Hind wings without closed cells; number of antennal segments variable but never 13 segments in male and 12 in female
15. Abdomen attached to the dorsal surface of the propodeum; black or black and red insects with the abdomen more or less strongly compressed
16. Pronotum narrow and transverse, terminating on each side in a rounded posterior lobe which covers the spiracle but does not reach the tegulae (if the area in question is

densely covered with hair, as in many bees, the pronotum terminates in rounded lobes which do not reach the tegulae)
Pronotum extends laterally to the tegulae but the lateral prolongations do not form rounded lobes and do not cover the spiracles
17. First segment of hind tarsi not dilated; plumose hairs absent; females without corbicula (pollen-baskets) on the posterior tibia
18. Hind tibiae without apical spurs; social insects (honey bees)
19. Females and workers with corbicula (except <i>Psithyrus</i> , parasitic bumble bees); first submarginal cell of front wing divided by a transverse, hair-like line; wings stalked, the anal lobe absent (Bumble-bees)
20. Tongue short, its apex divided (bifid)
21. Front wings with 3 submarginal cellsAndrenidaeFront wings with 2 submarginal cells22
22. Labrum not large and free, usually entirely concealed by the clypeus; if visible then strongly inflexed; females (non-parasitic) with a ventral abdominal pollen-collecting brush; pygidial area absent (leaf cutter bees, etc.)
23. First discoidal cell of the front wings longer than the submedian cell; wings folded longitudinally when at rest (typical wasps)
24. Episterna of mesothorax divided by a horizontal suture into the upper and lower plate; coxae large and long; legs usually long and spiny (spider wasps)Pompilidae Episterna of mesothorax not divided as above; coxae not large; legs not very long or spiny 25
25. First abdominal segment united by a ball and socket joint to the second, the first forming an almost completely separated node (ants)
26. Mesosternum and metasternum form a continuous flat plate that overlies the middle and hind coxae; apex of abdomen of males with 3 spines between the last exposed tergite and sternite
Mesosternum and metasternum not as described above
27. Second abdominal tergite or sternite or both, laterally with a submarginal "felt line"; middle coxae more or less contiguous; anal lobe of hind wing often absent (velvet ants).

Mutillid 'Felt line" absent; middle coxae not contiguous; anal lobe of hind wing always present Tiphiid	
28. The abdominal segment between the propodeum and gaster is in the form of an erect scale or node (ants)Formicid Scale or node absent between propodeum and gaster	
29. Abdomen more or less strongly compressed, with a mid-dorsal keel; last abdominal sternite of female divided and ovipositor issues before the tip of abdomen (gall wasps)	
Abdomen never strongly compressed, never with mid-dorsal keel; last abdominal sternite of female entire and ovipositor (sting) issues at tip of abdomen	f
30. Ocelli present	