Separating the insect Order Megaloptera from other "Neuroptera"

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Many authorities include the Megaloptera in the Order Neuroptera. Other feel Megaloptera should be a separate Order. Here are the characters used to separate Megaloptera from the remaining Neuroptera. (from Arnett, 1997).

1. Hind wings broad at base, usually distinctly larger than the front wings, and with enlarged anal area; longitudinal veins, as a rule, not forked at tips; pronotum subquadrate in dorsal view..... Megaloptera

- Hind wings narrow at base, small, not distinctly larger than front wings; longitudinal veins forked at tip, or if not, then venation is either greatly reduced and wings covered with whitish powder or pronotum is elongate ..... Neuroptera (*sensu strictu*)

References

Arnett, R. H., Jr. 1997. American Insects. A handbook of the insects of America north of Mexico. Sandhill Crane Press, Inc. Gainesville, Fl. xiii + 850p.

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Froeschner, R. C. 1947. Notes and keys to the Neuroptera of Missouri. Ann. Entomol. Soc. Am. 40:123-136. (non-Megaloptera).

Glorioso, M. J. 1981. Systematics of the dobsonfly subfamily Corydalinae (Megaloptera: Corydalidae). Syst. Entomol. 6:253-290.

Key to families of Megaloptera

1. Ocelli absent; fourth tarsomere bilobed; small black species ....Sialidae (one genus, *Sialis*)
- Ocelli present; fourth tarsomere simple; large grey or black species with mottled or white banded wings ..... Corydalidae

Corydalidae

There are approximately 22 species in 6 genera that occur in US and Canada. A key to genera may be found in Arnett (*loc. cit*.)