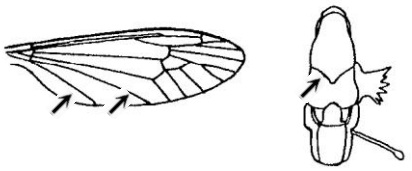
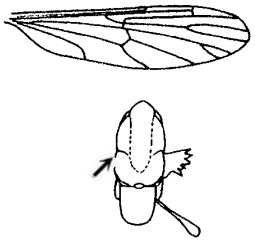
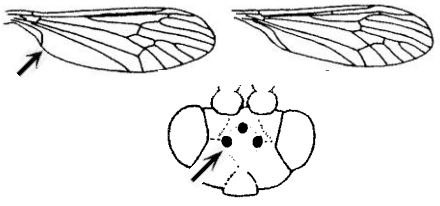
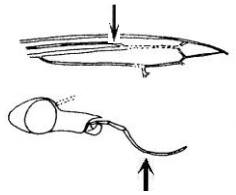
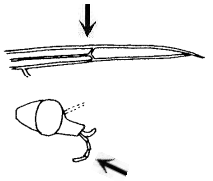
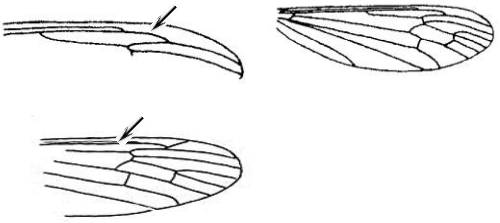
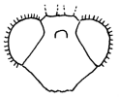
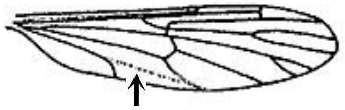
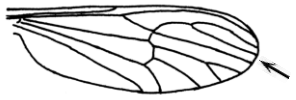
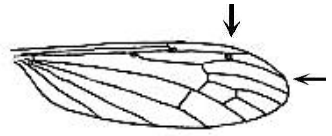
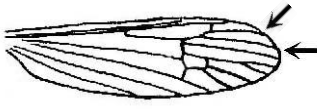
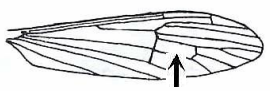
KEY TO THE FAMILIES AND SUB-FAMILIES OF CRANEFLIES by ALAN STUBBS – 1994. Revised by John Kramer – 2016

Craneflies have long antennae, usually thread- like, with more than three segments. The families Tipulidae, Cylindrotomidae, Pediciidae and Limoniidae comprise the superfamily Tipuloidea, the true Craneflies, which is placed in the infraorder Tipulomorpha. The families Trichoceridae, and Ptychopteridae are also referred to as craneflies for the purposes of the Cranefly Recording Scheme. Some mosquitoes and midges of the Infraorder Culicomorpha (Dixidae, Chaoboridae, Culicidae) may look somewhat similar and so have also been included in the key to cranefly families, below.

1.	Two distinct and complete anal veins posterior to the lower basal cell. Suture across top of thorax complete.	 2
-	Only one complete distinct anal vein (some families lack basal cells). Suture absent or incomplete.	 6
2.	Ocelli present; ocellar triangle very swollen. A2 short and usually strongly curved	 **Go to a key for TRICHOCERIDAE** (Winter Gnats)
-	Ocelli absent, any swelling in this area minor or absent. Vein A2 moderately long.	**Tipuloidea** (True Craneflies) 3

3.	Rostrum and palps long (Long-palped craneflies). Vein Sc curves down to end on R1.	 **Go to key for TIPULIDAE** (Long-palped craneflies)
-	Palps shorter than length of head (Short-palped craneflies). Vein Sc ends free, or in costa, simply or forked as Sc2, to reach R1.	 4
4.	Vein R1 turns down to end in R2+3. (body long for wings, as in some Pediciidae)	 **Go to key for CYLINDROTOMIDAE** (Long-bodied craneflies)
-	Vein R1 ends in costa. If vein Sc2 at end of Sc, Sc forks to join costa and R1.	5
5.	Eyes hairy (just visible with X20 lens in good light).	 **Go to key for PEDICIIDAE** (Hairy-eyed craneflies)
-	Eyes bare.	**LIMONIIDAE** (Limoniid craneflies) Go to 8

6.	Wings broad with 2-forked veins in distal half of the wing . Ocelli absent.	 Go to 7
-	Wings with different venation. Ocelli present or absent.	Other NEMATOCERA
7.	Wing length 6-12 mm. No vein between the 2 fork enclosed cells.Vein A1 strongly curved. Usually a fold in the hind part of the wing along vein A1.	 **Go to key for PTYCHO PTERIDAE** (Ptychopterid craneflies)
-	Wing length 3-5 mm. A simple vein between the 2 fork- enclosed cells.	 **the Infraorder Culicomorpha Superfamily CULICOIDEA** (Midges and Mosquitoes)
8.	Vein R 2+3 simple, noting that cross-vein r meets R1 before its apex (occasionally r absent).	 **Go to key for Limoniinae**
-	R 2+3 forked into R2 and R3, noting that R2 meets the wing margin beyond the apex of R1. (Crossvein r meets R1).	 9
9.	Tibial spurs present (but may be lost so easily misinterpreted).	**Go to key for Limnophilinae** If unsure, go to 10

-	Tibial spurs absent.	10
10.	With discal cell closed. (ie. Discal cell present.)	 **Go to Key to Craneflies with Closed Discal Cell.**
-	Discal cell open. (ie. discal cell absent.)	 **Go to Key to Craneflies with Open Discal Cell**.