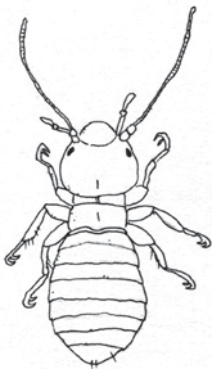


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INTRODUCING
BOOKLICE



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I'm writing a Young Adult fantasy novel at the moment.

It's set in the ruins of an enormous library.



So naturally I had to include my favourite insects:

BOOKLICE!



a.k.a.

ORDER PSOCOPTERA



Booklice are tiny insects, the size of a full stop.

They live in old books, eating the mould that grows on the paste in the bindings.

In turn, booklice are preyed upon by an insect called the book scorpion.



I discovered booklice by accident, following links on Wikipedia. But the moment I read about them, they became my favourite insect.

I love the idea of books as miniature worlds, complete with their own self-contained ecosystem.

Also:



FACTS ABOUT BOOKLICE

1. Booklice (are also called psocids) belong to the Order Psocoptera. They are a different Order than parasitic lice.
2. Wild booklice that live on trees are called barklice or barkflies.
3. Booklice feed primarily on fungi, algae, lichen, and organic detritus. Sources differ on whether they eat the glue paste in the binding of old books, or merely the mould that grows on the paste.
4. Science has proven booklice are both the best and the cutest of all the insects.

FACTS ABOUT BOOK SCORPIONS

1. Also called pseudoscorpions, book scorpions are not true scorpions. They are arachnids belonging to the order Pseudoscorpionida.
2. Pseudoscorpions prey on clothes moth larvae, carpet beetle larvae, ants, mites, small flies, and booklice. (Boo!)
3. Wikipedia says pseudoscorpions are tiny and inoffensive and generally beneficial to humans. This is clearly lies and propagan-da.
4. Google videos of pseudoscorpions running. They're creepy. They're very, very creepy.



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