

Tettigoniidae



Grasshopper

Scientific classification

Domain: Eukaryota
Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Arthropoda
Class: Insecta
Order: Orthoptera
Suborder: Ensifera
Infraorder: Tettigoniidea
Superfamily: Tettigonioidea
(Krauss 1902)
Family: Tettigoniidae
(Krauss 1902)

Insects in the family Tettigoniidae are commonly called katydids (especially in North America), or bush crickets.⁶⁴ They have previously been known as "long-horned grasshoppers". More than 8,000 species are known.⁶⁵

Tettigoniids range in size from as small as 5 mm (0.20 in) to as large as 130 mm (5.1 in).⁶⁶ The smaller species typically live in drier or more stressful habitats which may lead to their small size. The small size is associated with greater agility, faster development, and lower nutritional needs. Tettigoniids are tree-living insects that are most commonly heard at night during summer and early fall.⁶⁷

Diet

The diet of most tettigoniids includes leaves, flowers, bark, and seeds, but many species are exclusively predatory, feeding on other insects, snails, or even small vertebrates such as snakes and lizards. Some are also considered pests by commercial crop growers and are sprayed to limit growth, but population densities are usually low, so a large economic impact is rare.⁶⁸

Communication

The males of tettigoniids have sound-producing organs located on the hind angles of their front wings. In some species, females are also capable of stridulation. Females chirp in response to the shrill of the males. The males use this sound for courtship, which occurs late in the summer. The sound is produced by rubbing two parts of their bodies together, called stridulation. In many cases this is done with the wings, but not always.⁶⁶