

## ANT-LIONS AND OWL-FLIES OF KERALA

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### ABSTRACT

The present work highlights the status of ant-lions (Myrmeleontidae) and owl-flies (Ascalaphidae) of Kerala based on the published information. A total of 5 species belonging to 4 genera were reported. Distribution map of ant-lions and owl-flies in Kerala is also provided.

**Keywords:** Neuroptera, Myrmeleontidae, Ascalaphidae, ant-lions, owl-flies, Kerala

### INTRODUCTION

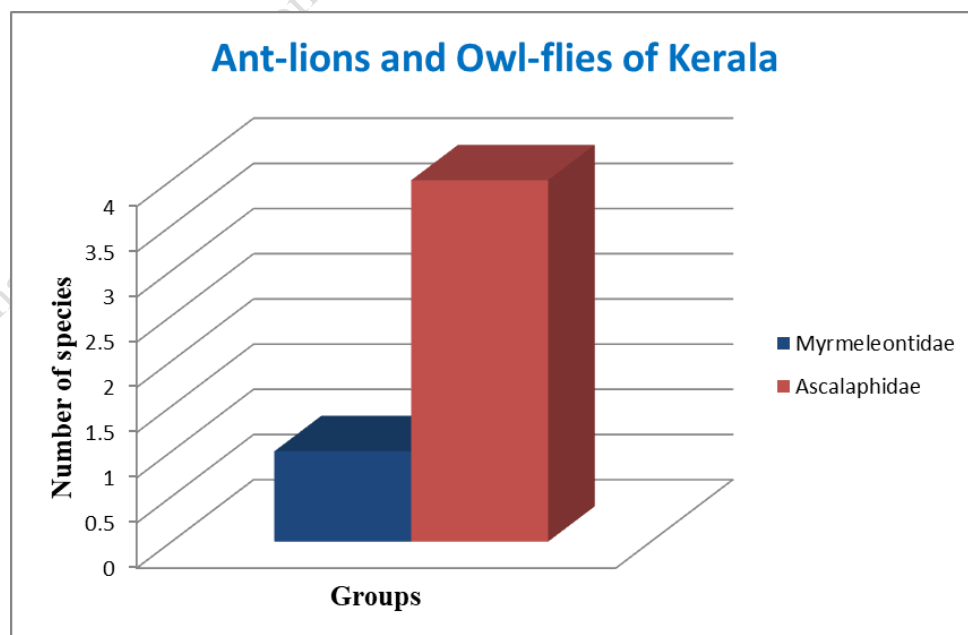
Neuroptera is the one of the smaller orders of holometabolous insects with 6530 species known globally while 312 species are known from India (Oswald 2017; Chandra & Sharma, 2009). Neuroptera commonly known as 'lacewings' possess two pairs of similar, delicate, transparent and membranous wings that are held in a roof like manner over the body when at rest. The wings have a dense network of veins, often branching just before they reach the wing margin (Ghosh 1998). The adult of many lacewings like Myrmeleontidae and Ascalaphidae are nocturnal and are usually attracted to lights. Most neuropterans have a weak, floppy flight, but some like owl-flies resembling dragonflies are fast and agile fliers.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

This paper is prepared on the basis of the literature review of the Neuropteran families, Myrmeleontidae and Ascalaphidae. Only one species of Myrmeleontidae and a total of four species' of Ascalaphidae are reported so far from Kerala.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A total of 5 species belonging to 4 genera were reported so far from the state. When we compare the species of Myrmeleontidae and Ascalaphidae families, more species are reported from Ascalaphidae (4 species) while only one species are reported from Myrmeleontidae (Figure 1).



**Figure 1: Representation of number of species of two families of Neuroptera**