

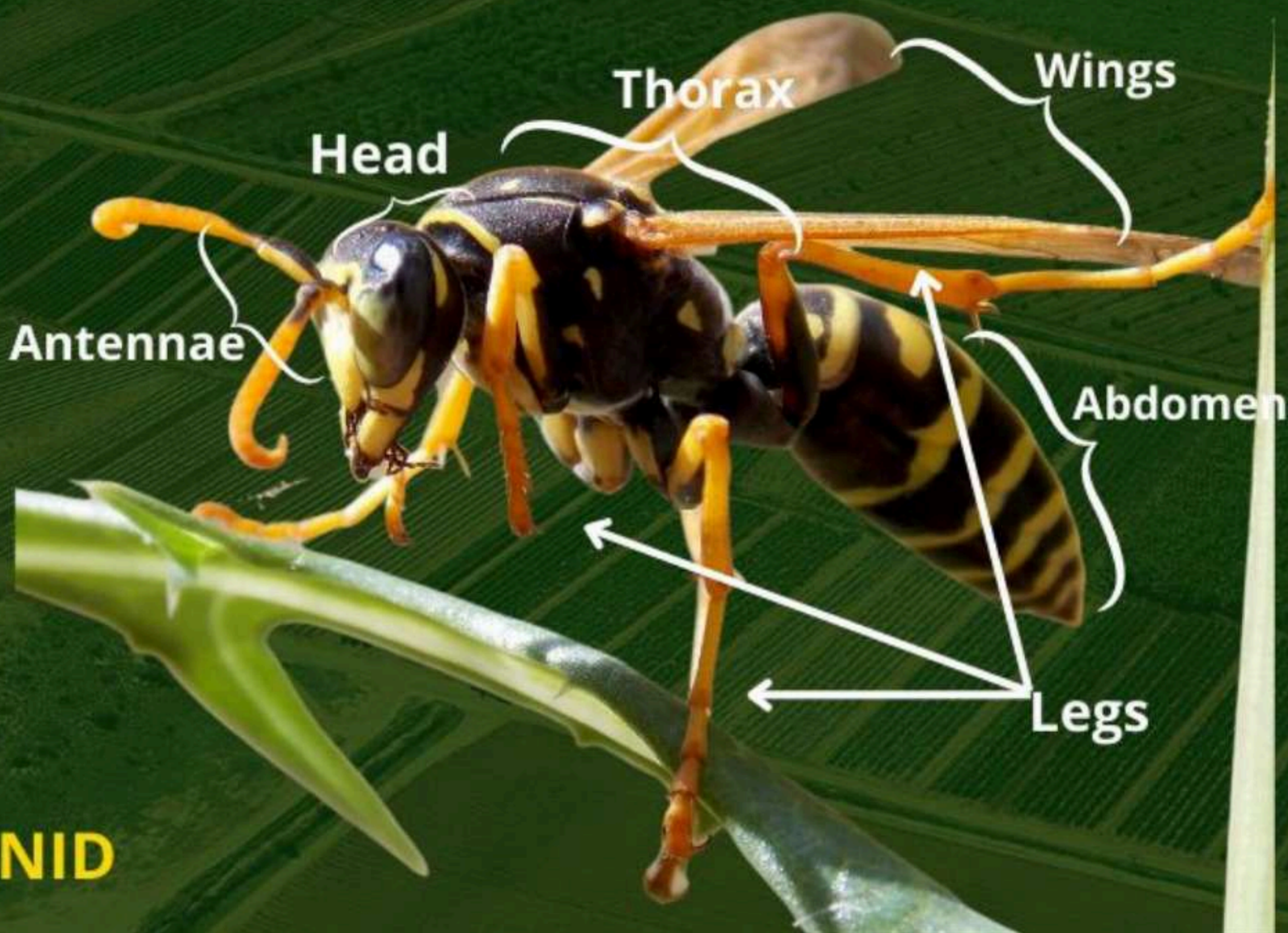


# Insect Trivia

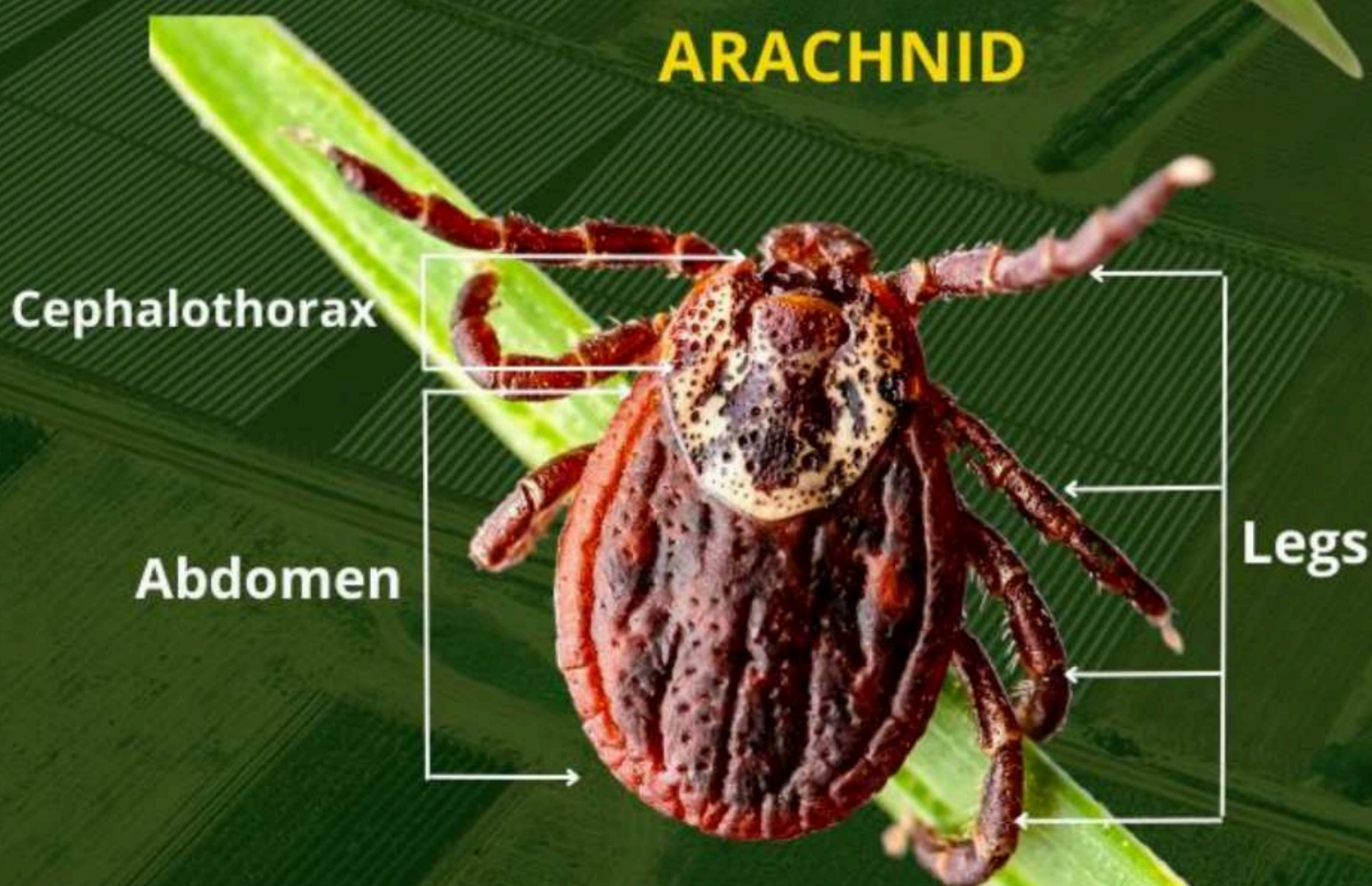


# HOW DO YOU DISTINGUISH INSECTS FROM ARACHNIDS?

## INSECT



## ARACHNID



# Insects:

- First creatures to take to the air and have prodigious reproductive rates
- May dominate food chains and food webs in terms of both volume and numbers. Feeding specializations of different insect groups include ingestion of detritus, rotting materials, wood and fungus, aquatic filter feeding and grazing, herbivory, including sap feeding and predation and parasitism.

## **Insects are essential to the following ecosystem functions:**

- Nutrient recycling, via leaf-litter and wood degradation, dispersal of fungi, disposal of carrion and dung, and soil turnover;
- Plant propagation, including pollination and seed dispersal;
- Maintenance of plant community composition and structure, via phytophagy, including seed feeding;
- Food for insectivorous vertebrates, such as many birds, mammals, reptiles and fish;
- Maintenance of animal community structure, through transmission of diseases of large animals, and predation and parasitization of smaller ones.



# MORPHOLOGY

## INSECTS

- Have three segments to their bodies: head, thorax, and abdomen
- Three (3) pairs of legs
- Undergo metamorphosis from egg to adult stage
- With wings and antennae
- Examples: bees, beetles, wasps, butterflies, ants, grasshoppers, etc.

## ARACHNIDS

- Have two segments: cephalothorax and abdomen
- Four (4) pairs of legs
- Retain adult shape and molt as they grow larger
- Without wings and antennae
- Examples: mites, scorpions, spiders, and ticks.



cpmd@buplant.da.gov.ph



(8)-236-0598

## **SOURCE:**

P.J. Gullan and P.S. Cranston. (2010). The Insects: An Outline of Entomology. Fourth Edition.

R.F. Chapman. The Insects: Structure and Function. Fifth Edition.

