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Q18

Consider the following : 1. Carabid beetles 2. Centipedes 3. Flies 4. Termites 5. Wasps Parasitoid species are found how many of the above kind of organisms? (a) Only two (b) Only three (c) Only four (d) All Five Official key: B.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2024 · General Studies · 2 marks · Environment and Ecology

Environment, ecology, climate, biodiversity - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation

(a)

Only two. Parasitoids occur in more of the list.

(b) Official key

Only three. Flies, wasps and some beetles include parasitoids; centipedes and termites are not **parasitoid** groups here.

(c)

Only four. Over-counts.

(d)

All five. Centipedes are predators; termites are social decomposers, not parasitoids.

Summary

Official key is (b) only three. Parasitoids - insects whose larvae live in or on a host and kill it - are classic among wasps (Ichneumonoidea, Chalcidoidea), flies (**Tachinidae**) and some beetles (e.g. certain Carabidae / ripiphorids in the broader **parasitoid** story UPSC counts as three). Centipedes are predators; termites are not parasitoids. The paper keys three of the five kinds.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Parasitoid

Larva develops on/in one host and kills it; used in biocontrol.

Tachinidae

Parasitoid flies; larvae typically in other insects.