Key to Common Insect Groups

Wings present
- Wingcases at least partially hardened
  - Forewings without distinctive wing veins
    - Has pincers
      - Earwig
    - Lacks pincers
      - Beetle
  - Forewings with distinctive wing veins
    - Hind wings reduced
      - True fly
    - Hind wings enlarged
      - Grasshopper or cricket
  - Piercing/sucking mouthparts
    - Forewings folded flat over body
      - Bug
    - Forewings held tent-like
      - Hopper

Chewing mouthparts
- With distinct waist
  - Ant
- Without a distinct waist
  - Larvaform
    - Larva (beetle grub or caterpillar)
    - Body dorso-ventrally flattened
      - Booklouse
    - Not larviform
      - Aphid
      - Body dorso-ventrally flattened
      - Booklouse
      - Body flattened laterally
      - Flea
      - Scale insect (very variable in form)

Wings membranous
- Two pairs wings
  - Wings lack scales, hair or powdery wax
    - Body dorso-ventrally flattened
      - Louse
    - Not dorso-ventrally flattened
      - Not larviform
      - Body dorso-ventrally flattened
        - Booklouse
      - Body flattened laterally
        - Flea
      - Body dorso-ventrally flattened
        - Scale insect (very variable in form)

Insect groups bordered with red are not recorded from South Georgia