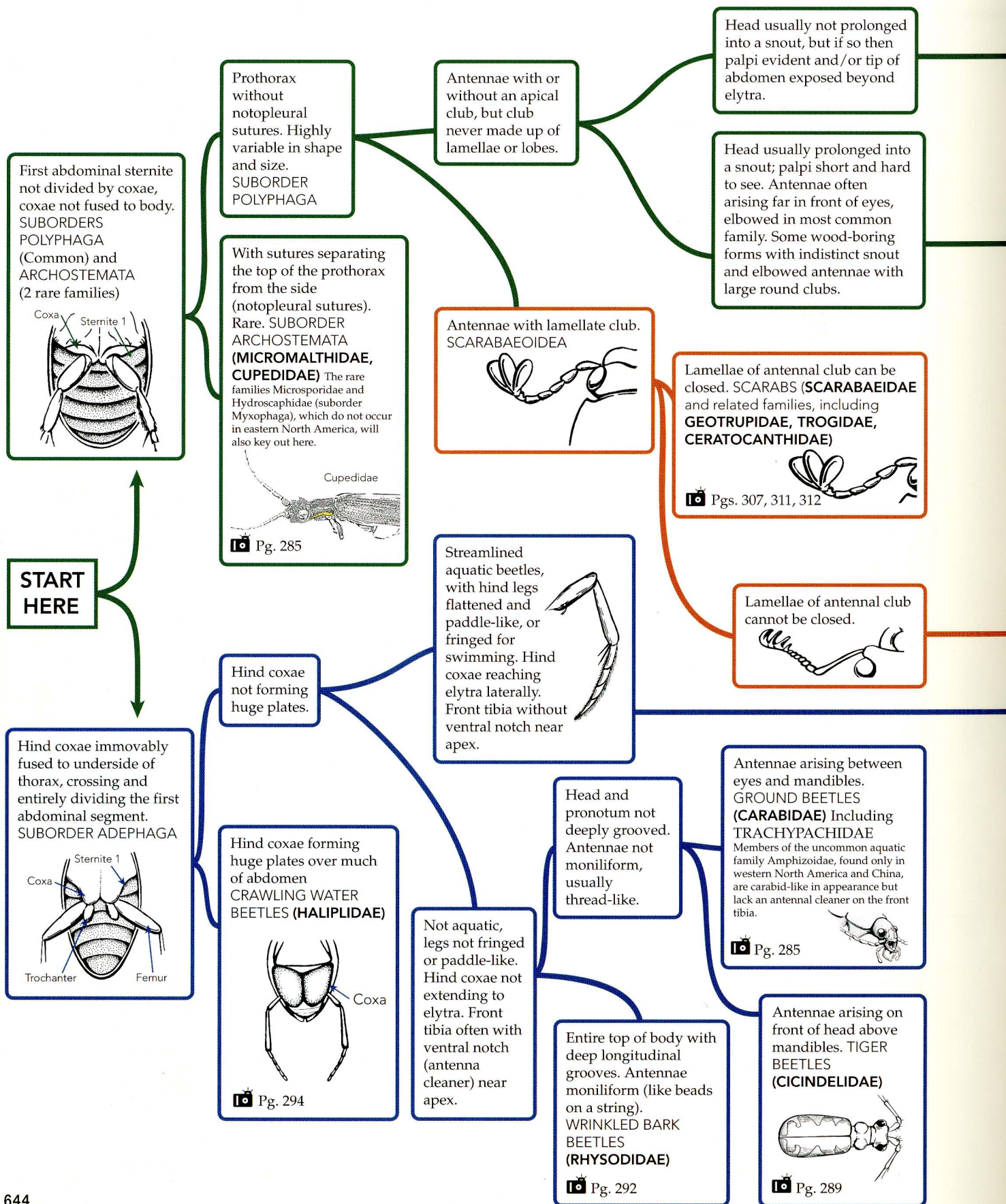


BEETLE KEY ONE: Suborders of Coeloptera, families of Adephaga, and selected families of Polyphaga. Start here if you are unsure about where to begin.

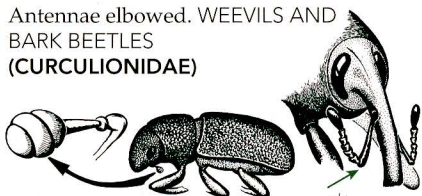


Tarsi variable, but if hind leg with 3rd segment lobed and concealing 4th, then antennae clubbed.
SEE BEETLE KEY 2

Each leg with 5 tarsomeres, but with 3rd segment of tarsus expanded, lobed and concealing a small 4th segment between the spongy lobes. Antennae not clubbed. If the 2nd or 4th tarsomere is lobed (rather than the 3rd), go to key 2. Scirtidae (key 4, 4th segment lobed) are often misidentified as Chrysomelidae, so count carefully!

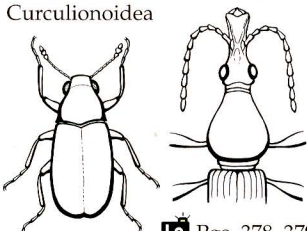


Antennae elbowed. WEEVILS AND BARK BEETLES (**CURCULIONIDAE**)



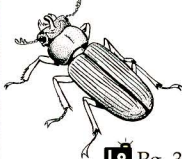
Pg. 370

Antennae not elbowed
FUNGUS WEEVILS (ANTHRIBIDAE), **PRIMITIVE WEEVILS (BRENTIDAE)** and some other small families of Curculionoidea



Pgs. 378, 379

Antennae not elbowed; head with small horn. **BESSBUGS (PASSALIDAE)**



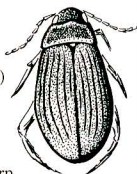
Pg. 313

Antennae elbowed. Males often with big jaws. **STAG BEETLES (LUCANIDAE)**



Pg. 312

Eyes entire. Length 2–40 mm. **DIVING BEETLES (DYTISCIDAE)** **BURROWING WATER BEETLES (NOTERIDAE)** are similar, but small (1–5 mm) with a hidden scutellum AND a front tibial spur (except in some minute southeastern species).



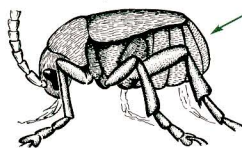
Pgs. 292, 295

Eyes divided. **WHIRLIGIGS (GYRINIDAE)**



Pg. 295

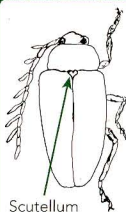
Elytra usually short, exposing tip of abdomen. With a weak, broad snout and stout hind femora. **BEAN WEEVILS (BRUCHIDAE)**



Pg. 351

Elytra not shortened, shape different and without a broad beak.

Eyes not notched by antennal bases. Antennae less than half as long as body.



Scutellum heart-shaped. Antennae (at least ♂) branched or sawtoothed. **PTILODACTYLIDAE** (Infrequently collected).

Pg. 297

Scutellum not heart-shaped. Antennae uniform.

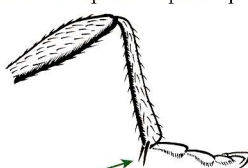
Elytra without bristly hairs. Head not broad.

Narrow, parallel-sided and very flat. Head constricted behind eyes. Under bark or in stored products. **SOME SILVANIDAE**

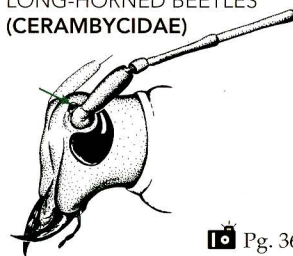
Pg. 341

Leaf-eating beetles, usually not flat and parallel-sided; if so then head not constricted behind eyes. Usually brightly colored, often shiny.

Tibiae with paired apical spurs.



Eyes notched by antennal bases. Antennae long, usually at least half as long as body. **MOST LONG-HORNED BEETLES (CERAMBYCIDAE)**



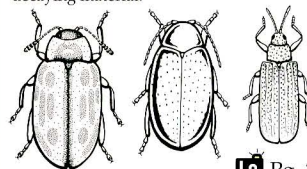
Pg. 360

Covered with bristly hairs. Head at least as wide as prothorax, prothorax rounded and narrower than abdomen. Most Cleridae have a distinct antennal club and will come out in key 2. **CHECKERED BEETLES (CLERIDAE)**



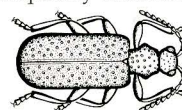
Pg. 321

Tibiae usually without paired apical spurs. **LEAF BEETLES CHRYSOMELIDAE** (an enormous and variable family, very common). The single North American species of **CHELONARIIDAE**, a rare southeastern species (distinctively convex, with white scale patches on the elytra), would also key out here. A few other beetles have an expanded third tarsomere and might be mistakenly keyed out here; try key 2 if your beetle is dull-colored or associated with fungi, dead trees or decaying material.

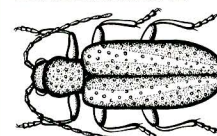


Pg. 351

Head with a narrow neck and a constriction behind eye. **MEGALOPODIDAE** (a small group, infrequently collected).

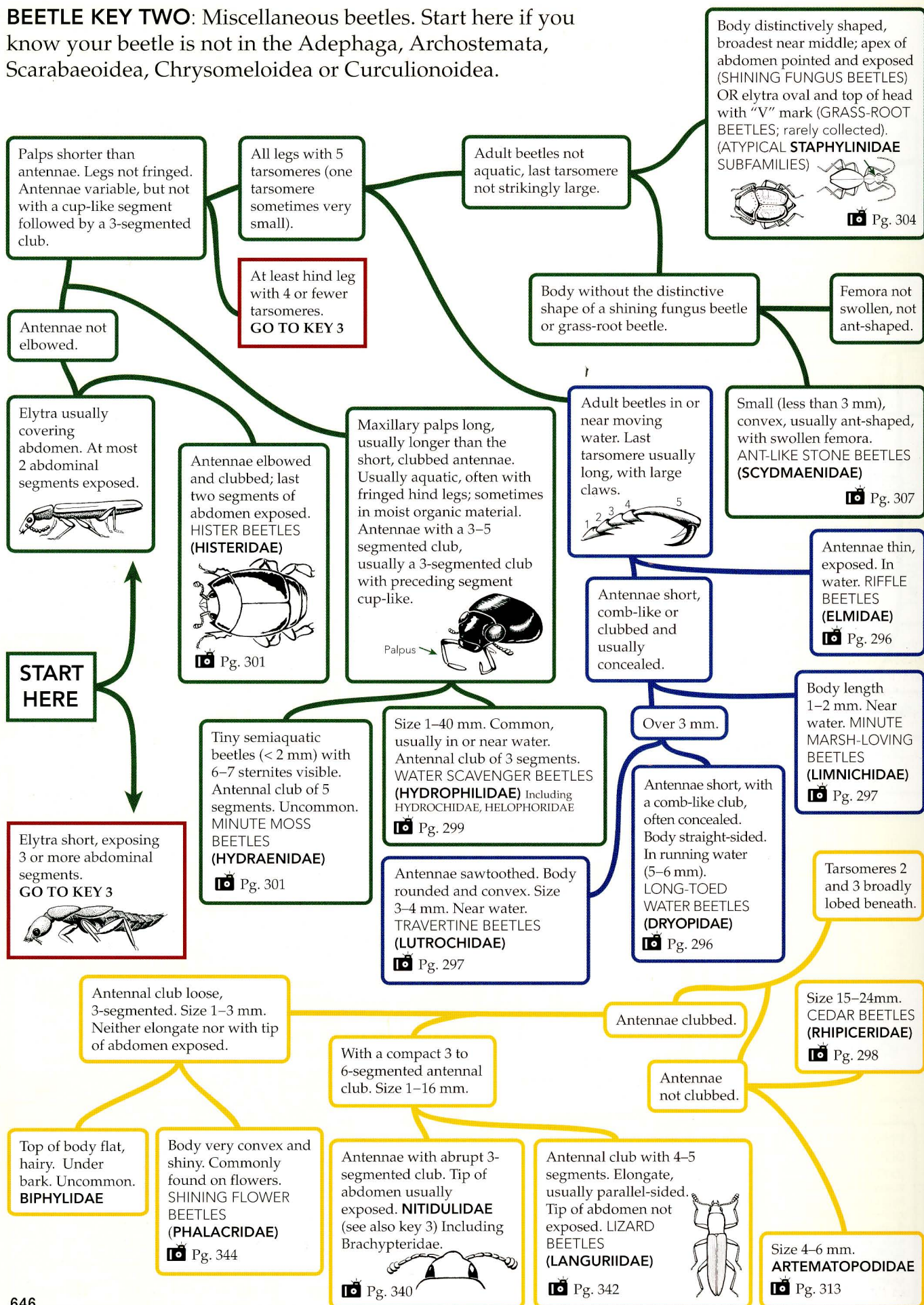


Head not constricted behind eye. **ORSODACNIDAE**

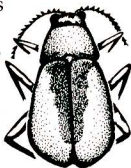


Pg. 351

BEETLE KEY TWO: Miscellaneous beetles. Start here if you know your beetle is not in the Adephaga, Archostemata, Scarabaeoidea, Chrysomeloidea or Curculionoidea.

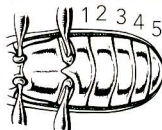


Body broadest towards rear, elytra soft and loose. Pronotum wider than long. Often hairy and brightly colored. Antennae neither clubbed nor branched. **SOFT-WINGED FLOWER BEETLES (MELYRIDAE)**



Pg. 322

Underside of abdomen with 5 visible segments. Elytra rarely soft.

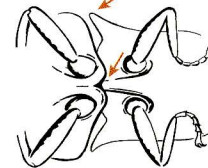


Underside of abdomen with 6-8 visible sternites. Elytra usually soft. **GO TO KEY 4**



Without click mechanism; prosternum without process. Back corners of pronotum usually not pointed.

With "click mechanism" (a process pointing back from between the front legs into a notch in the next segment). Pronotum with back corners usually distinctively pointed and produced.



Not shaped like Melyridae. If elytra soft then elongate and more or less parallel-sided.

Not shaped like a checkered beetle.

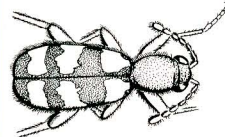
Usually robust, bullet-shaped; body at least partly metallic. First 2 abdominal sternites fused. **METALLIC WOOD BORING BEETLES (BUPRESTIDAE)**



Pg. 324

Not bullet-shaped, usually without metallic surfaces. First 2 sternites separate.

Covered with bristly hairs. Head at least as wide as prothorax, rounded and narrower than abdomen. Often brightly colored. **CHECKERED BEETLES (CLERIDAE)**

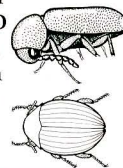


Pg. 321

Not strongly flattened, often hairy or bristly.

Head visible from above.

Head concealed from above. **GO TO KEY 4.** If in doubt, key both directions from this point then check photos.



Very strongly flattened, bare. **SILVANIDAE, PASSANDRIDAE,** and females of **CUCUJIDAE** and **LAEMOPHLOEIDAE**



Pgs. 341, 342

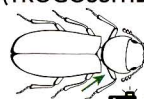
No prominent gap between prothorax and elytral base, or with thread-like antennae.

Front of head with 2 simple eyes on prominent bumps. Uncommon. **TOOTH-NECKED FUNGUS BEETLES (DERODONTIDAE)**



Pg. 339

Distinctive gap between prothorax and elytra (in eastern species). Antennae with loose 3-segmented club. Mandibles prominent. **BARK-GNAWING BEETLES (TROGOSSITIDAE)**



Pg. 323

Front of head without ocelli.

Tarsomeres simple, not broadly lobed beneath.

Antennae not clubbed; see photos of **SHIP TIMBER BEETLES (LYMEXYLIDAE)** AND **ABERRANT LONG-HORNS (PARANDRINAE), CERAMBYCIDAE.** **CALLIRHIPIDAE,** with one very rare southeastern species would key here, but has sawtoothed antennae and large eyes.

Pgs. 339, 360, 369

Antennae clubbed

Broad or convex. Antennal club usually 3-segmented.

Usually brownish, 1-3 mm.

Usually shining black with red marks. Elytra striate (with longitudinal lines). **SOME PLEASING FUNGUS BEETLES (EROTYLIDAE)** The mostly western family **AGYRTIDAE** will key out here (one eastern species; brown, striate elytra and a 5-segmented club).

Pg. 343

Black or black with red-orange marks. Size over 4 mm.

Black, very convex. Elytra not striate. **WOUNDED-TREE BEETLES (NOSODENDRIDAE)**

Pg. 339

Short-cylindrical. In slime molds. **SPHINDIDAE** Only females will key out here; males come out in key 3.

Pg. 342

Oval to elongate-oval. **MOST SILKEN FUNGUS BEETLES (CRYPTOPHAGIDAE)**

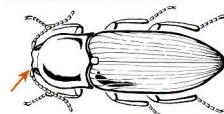
Pg. 344

Elongate, narrow, beetles with antennal club 2-segmented.

Tip of abdomen exposed. **MONOTOMIDAE (=RHIZOPHAGIDAE)** Only females will key out here; males come out in key 3.

Pg. 342

Antennae inserted near eyes. **CLICK BEETLES (ELATERIDAE)** **DASCILLIDAE** (southwest only) are similar in shape but lack a distinct click mechanism.



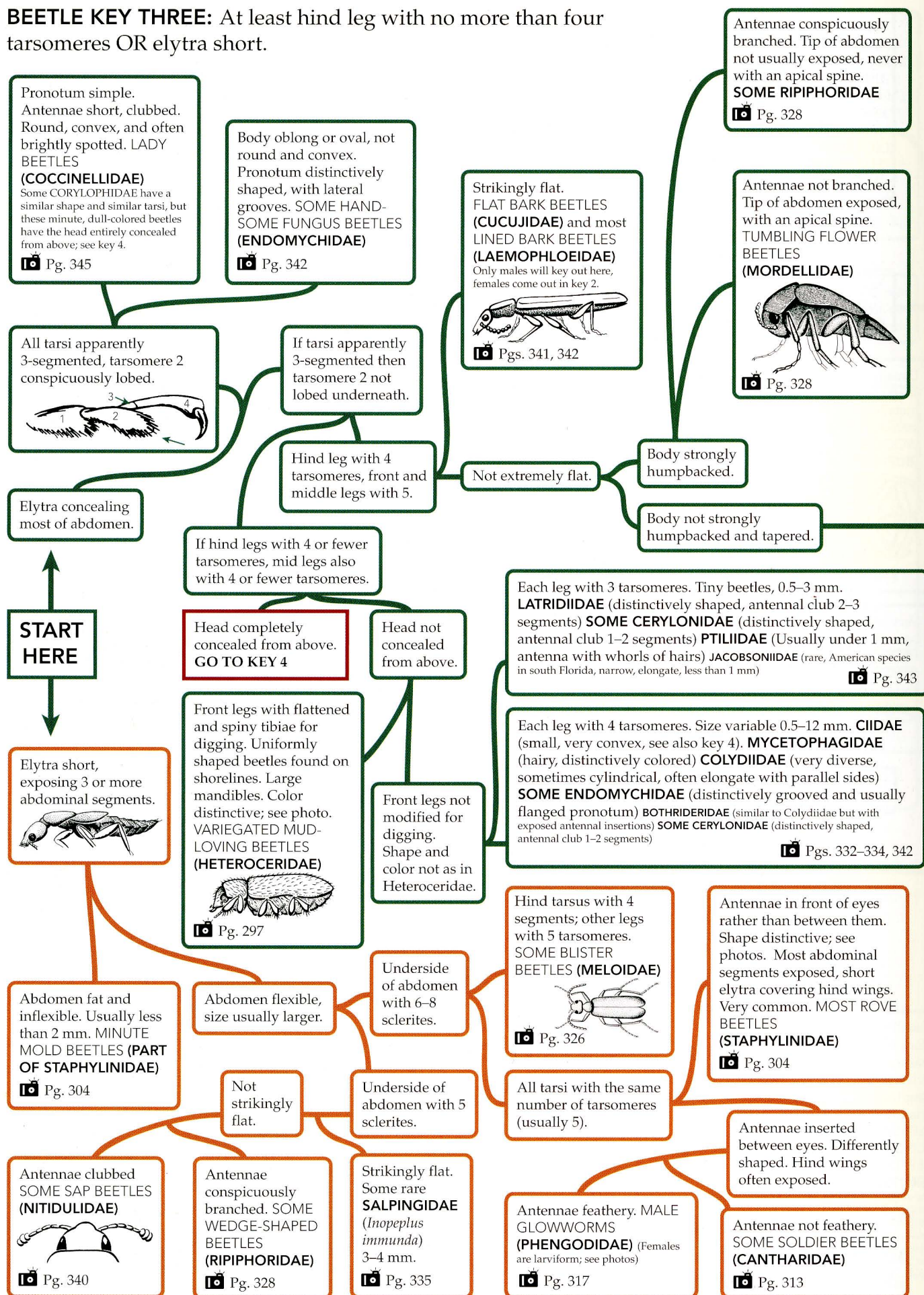
Pg. 317

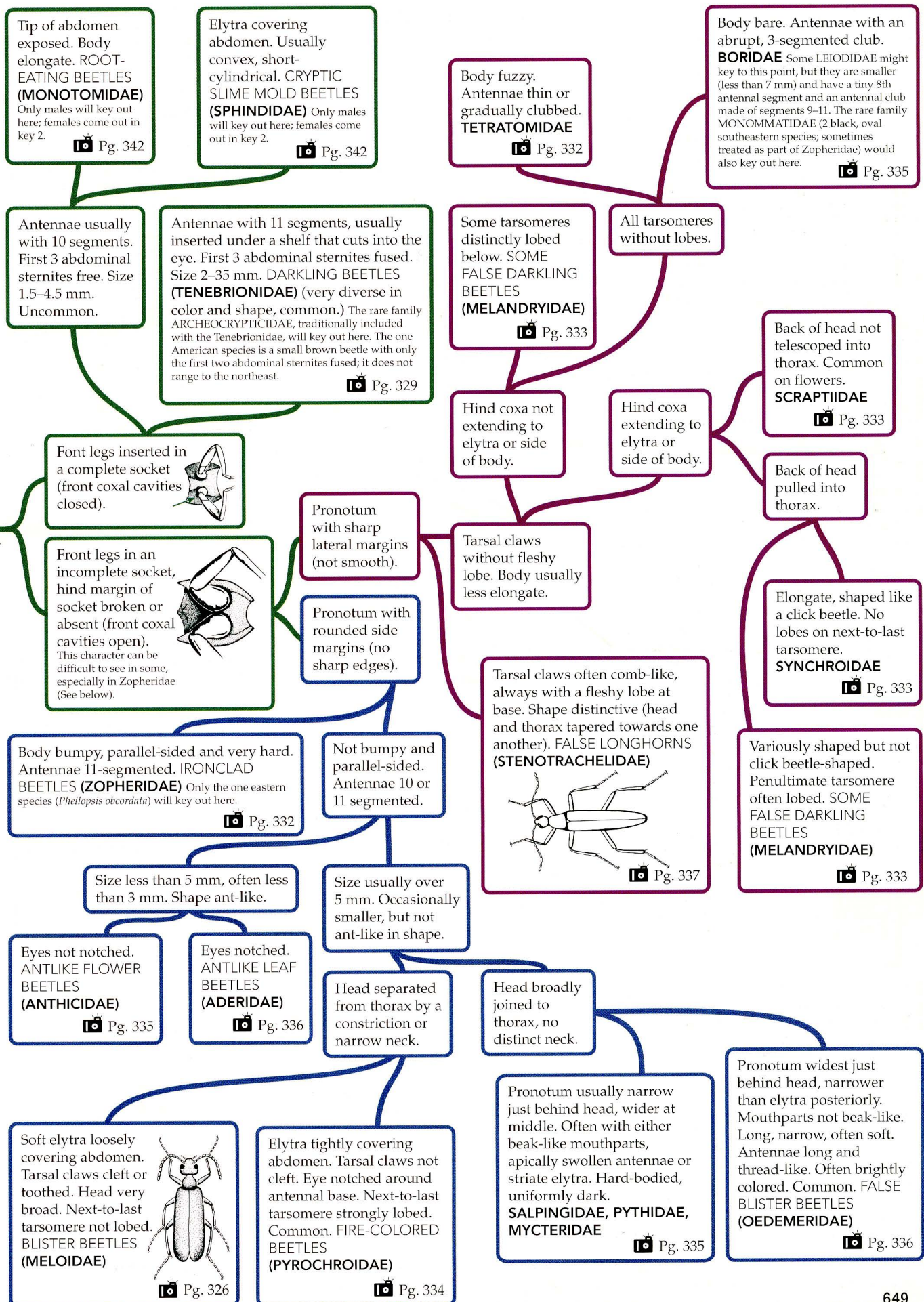
Tip of abdomen not exposed. **POWDER POST BEETLES (BOSTRICHIDAE, IN PART)**



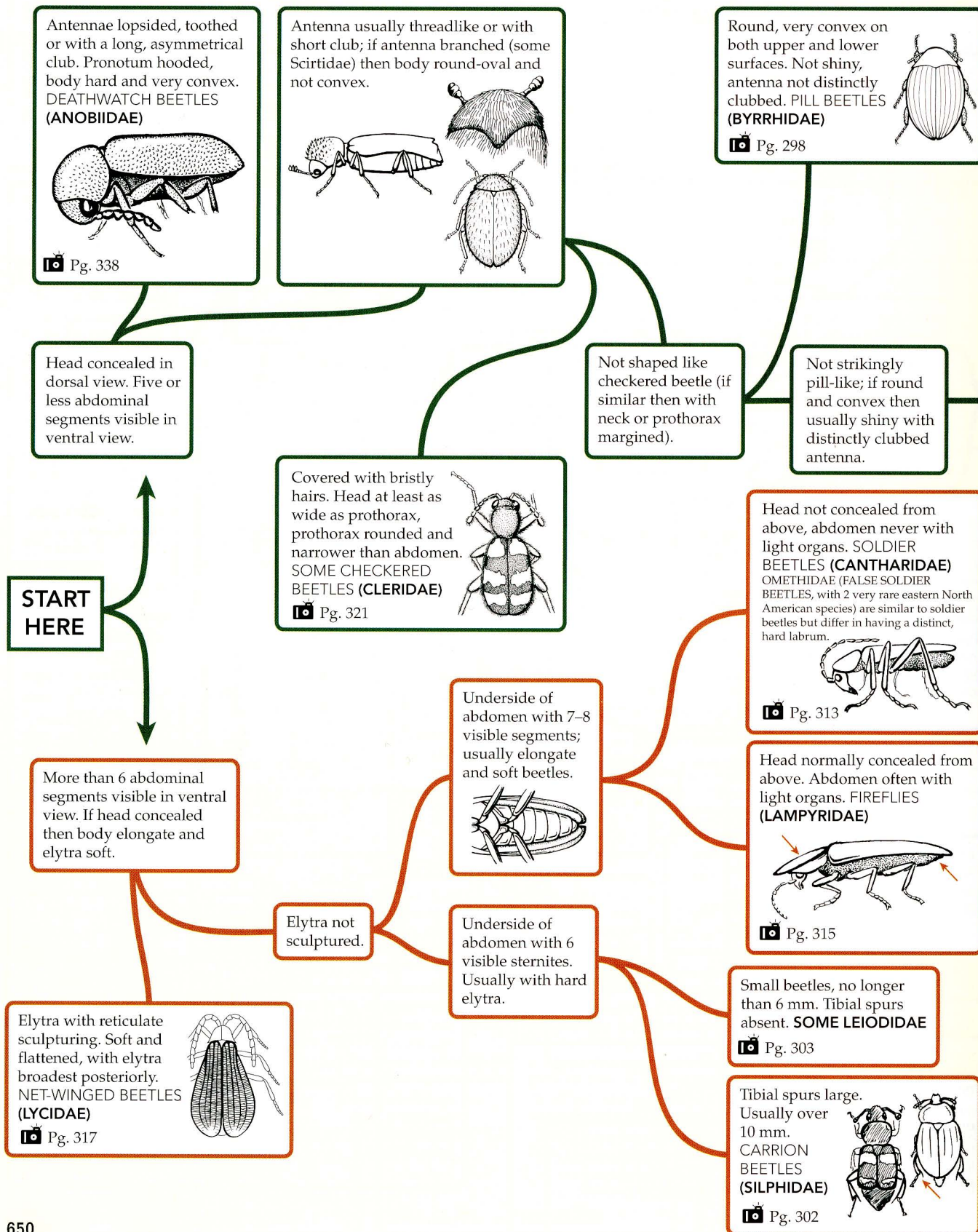
Pg. 337

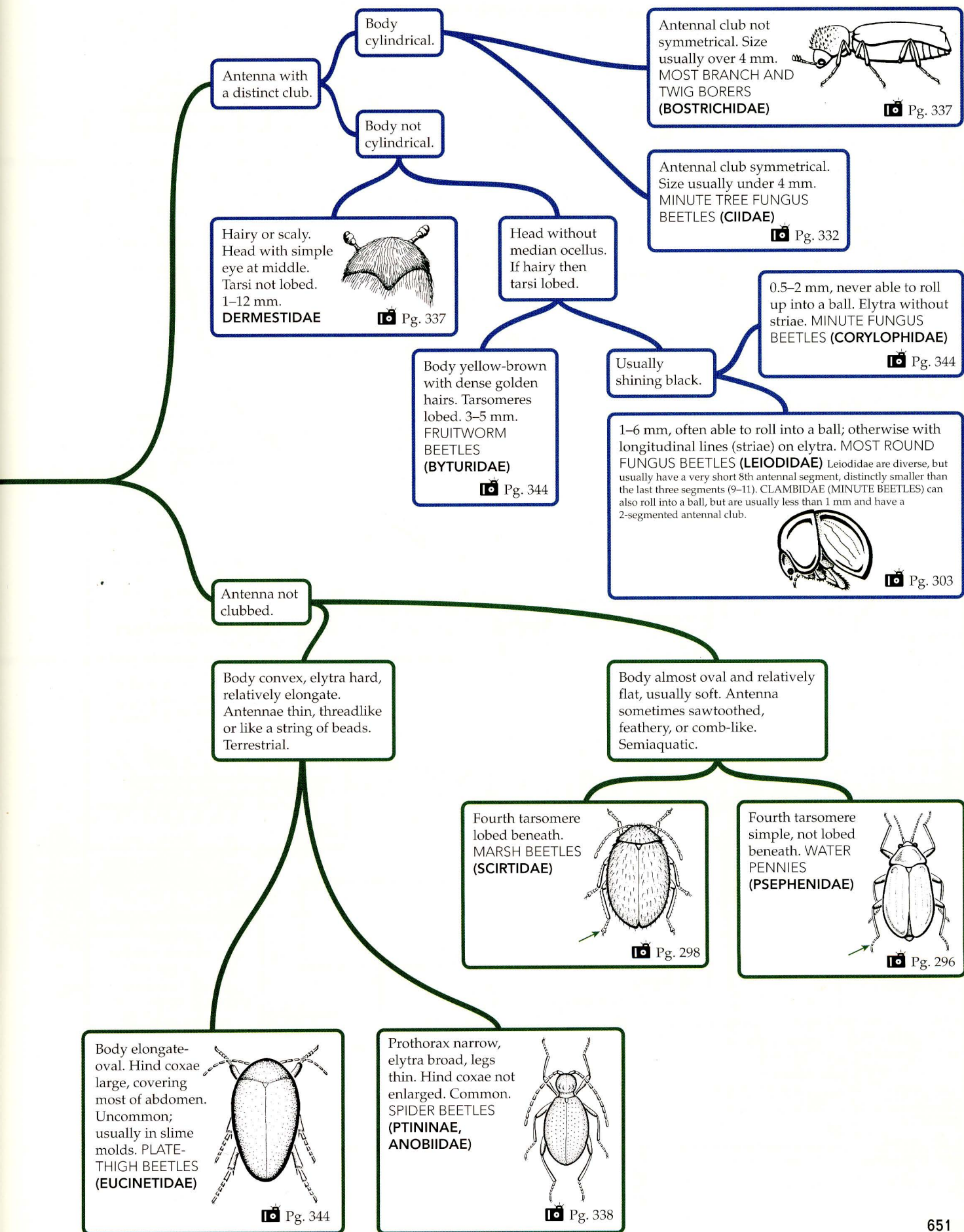
BEETLE KEY THREE: At least hind leg with no more than four tarsomeres OR elytra short.





BEETLE KEY FOUR: From BEETLE KEYS TWO and THREE (beetles with more than 5 abdominal segments visible ventrally, plus selected groups with the head hidden from above).





KEY TO COLEOPTERA LARVAE: Aquatic beetle larvae and larvae of the most commonly encountered terrestrial families.

