

# Introduction

Katydid are members of the family Tettigoniidae. This family belongs to the order Orthoptera, which includes grasshoppers, katydids, crickets and related insects. The order previously included stick insects, mantids and cockroaches, but nowadays we use Orthoptera in a more restricted sense. These other groups are correctly called 'orthopteroid insects'.

The term 'katydid' is used in North America, New Zealand and Australia to identify members of the Tettigoniidae. The famous American entomologist C V Riley used it in his 1874 Report but the use of the word actually goes back to 1751, at least, when John Bartram referred to 'catedidists' in his 'Travels in Pensilvania and Canada' (Oxford English Dictionary). In the United Kingdom, tettigoniids (katydids) are called 'bush-crickets'. They seldom use the word 'katydid'. In France these insects are *sauterelles*, in Portugal and some parts of

Central and South America they are called *esperansas*, *grillos* in Spain, and *Laubheuschrecken* in Germany (Nickle and Naskrecki 1997). Gwynne (2001) felt that the reason there were so many common names was because the group is so poorly known. This may be true but it may also reflect the general morphological diversity within the group. Often some folks, even entomologists, exclaim that they had no idea that this or that species is a katydid.

To further confuse matters, within the Tettigoniidae, some groups have different common names such as 'long-horned grasshoppers' or 'meadow katydids' or 'Mormon Crickets'. In the latter example, the American insect is not a cricket at all but a tettigoniine katydid, *Anabrus simplex*. The 'popular' Australian Mountain Grasshopper, *Acripeza reticulata*, is a phaneropterine katydid and not a grasshopper.



The Mormon Cricket, *Anabrus simplex*, is not a cricket but a katydid.



The Australian Mountain Grasshopper, *Acripeza reticulata* is actually a katydid.