

## Type Specimen

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Lacquered black curve of exoskeletal shell  
cracked along oblong body,  
tallowy ooze separating  
spread-flat shards and pooling  
beneath bristled legs that snap  
at the joint like dandelion heads.  
Wispy antennae lay limp, crooked  
mandibles slack and wide while  
light glints off eyes that quiver  
with guttering flame.

An otherwise perfect specimen  
as far as the casual overlooker  
can tell. Fit for pinning  
in the glass case  
of ever-vague *science*  
with its dissecting instruments  
and scopes  
mirroring worlds in grains  
of sand—theoretically—  
slipping past.