

[« Previous](#) | [Back to Results](#)[Help on Dictionary Entry](#) | [Print](#) | [Save](#) | [Email](#) | [Cite](#)† e'phemera, *adj.* and *n.*¹Text size: [A](#) [A](#)View as: [Outline](#) | [Full entry](#)Quotations: [Show all](#) | [Hide all](#) Keywords: [On](#) | [Off](#)**Forms:** ME–16 *effimera*, 15 *ephimera*, 16–18 *ephemera*; pl.16 *ephemeraes*, 17–18 *ephemerae*, ... ([Show More](#))**Etymology:** < medieval Latin *ephēmera* (sc. *febris*), feminine of *ephēmerus*, < Greek *ἐφήμερος* ... ([Show More](#))*Pathol. Obs.***A. adj.**

Of a fever: Lasting only for a day; 'ephemeral'.

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[Categories »](#)1528 T. PAYNELL tr. Arnaldus de Villa Nova in Joannes de Mediolano *Regimen Sanitatis Salerni* sig. C, A feuer *effimere* is engendred of vapours and smudge fumes.1547 A. BORDE *Breuiary of Helthe* l. f. lix^v, In englyshe it is named the *Ephimer feuer*..the feuer doth dye that day in the which he doth infest any man.[\(Hide quotations\)](#)**B. n.**¹

An ephemeral fever.

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[Categories »](#)1398 J. TREVISA tr. Bartholomew de Glanville *De Proprietatibus Rerum* (1495) vii. xxxiv. 248 *Effimera*, one dayes feuer is as it were the heete of one daye.1585 H. LLWYD tr. Pope John XXI *Treasury of Health* (new ed.) sig. R iij, Of the Agew callyd *ephimera* which endureth but one daye.1625 J. HART *Anat. Urines* II. ix. 112 That Feauer which we call *Ephemera*, not exceeding foure and twentie houres.1707 J. FLOYER *Physician's Pulse-watch* 115 *Ephemeras* oft end in Hectics, or Intermittents, because the Pulse is a-like frequent in all of them.1813 J. THOMSON *Lect. Inflammation* 105 The *ephemera* from cold may be regarded as an idiopathic fever.[\(Hide quotations\)](#)

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ephemera, *n.*²

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Pronunciation:  /ɪˈfɛmərə/

Forms: Pl. *ephemeræ*, *ephemeras*.

Frequency (in current use): ●●●●●●●●

Etymology: < modern Latin *ephēmera* (? sc. *musca*): see [EPHEMERA](#) *adj.*... ([Show More](#))

1. An insect that (in its imago or winged form) lives only for a day. In mod. entomology the name of a genus of pseudo-neuropterous insects belonging to the group Ephemeriðæ (Day-flies, May-flies).

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1676 M. HALE *Primitive Originat. Mankind* (1677) II. vi. 170 **But Ephemeraes in duration, and little other than Insects in extent.**

1750 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 82. ¶7, **I..have discovered a new ephemeræ.**

1803 W. BINGLEY *Animal Biogr.* III. 317 **The Common Ephemera or Day-fly.**

1873 J. W. DAWSON *Story Earth & Man* vi. 136 **Shad-flies or ephemeræ, which spend their earlier days under water.**

[\(Hide quotations\)](#)

2. *transf.* and *fig.* One who or something which has a transitory existence.

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1751 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 145. ¶11 **These papers of a day, the Ephemera of learning.**

1785 G. CRABBE *News-paper* 5 **These base Ephemeras, so born To die before the next revolving morn.**

1815 *Scribbleomania* 58 **When the new-fangled ephemeræ of fashion shall be no more.**

1886 H. F. LESTER *Under Two Fig Trees* 33 **[A charwoman is] a kind of domestic ephemeræ which flutters briefly in the scullery and then is seen no more.**

[\(Hide quotations\)](#)