



Emperor Moth Caterpillar

A caterpillar is the larva of a moth or butterfly. Caterpillars hatch from tiny eggs and spend a lot of time eating before becoming pupas and, eventually, adult. This process is called metamorphosis.

Scientific name: *Saturnia pavonia*

Description: green with segmented body, black rings and yellow bumpy spots with bristly hairs

Size: 6 cm (2.3 inches) long

Where: Europe and parts of Asia; heaths, moorland, sand dunes and open countryside

When: May to August

Diet: moorland plants such as heather and bramble



Garden Spider

Spins a spiral web to catch its prey. A spider sits in the centre of its web to feel the vibrations when an insect gets caught. It then wraps the insect in silk and kills it with a poisonous bite. Spider silk is incredibly light and strong. Garden spiders are completely harmless to humans.

Scientific name: *Araneus diadematus*

Description: grey-brown with a white cross on its back

Size: 0.9-1.8 cm (0.3 to 0.7 inches) long; females are twice as big as males

Where: Europe and North America; wide variety of habitats

When: June to November

Diet: small insects



Green Shield Bug

This shield-shaped insect is well hidden when it's sitting on a leaf. If it needs extra protection, it can make a nasty smell, which is why it's sometimes called a stink bug, so it's best not to pick it up!

Scientific name: *Palomena prasina*

Description: bright green with tiny black dots in spring and summer and dark wingtips, turning to bronze-brown in autumn

Size: 1-1.5 cm (0.4-0.6 inches)

Where: Europe, including Great Britain and Ireland; widespread in gardens, meadows and woodland, spreading north as the climate changes

When: May to November

Diet: plant sap from trees and bushes especially hazel



Snail

Snails are molluscs. There are more than 43,000 species of snail, found in all parts of the world. Snails are eaten by birds, such as thrushes, animals, including toads and hedgehogs, and humans.

Scientific name: *Cornu aspersum*

Description: soft, greyish, boneless body protected by a coiled shell. Glides along on a muscular 'foot', leaving a trail of slime which helps it move; four tentacles on head, with eyes on the top tentacles, organs for touch and smell on the lower ones, and a mouth beneath.

Size: 2.5-3.5 cm (1-1.4 inches) tall

Where: throughout the world, including the Arctic;

Europe and North Africa; they prefer damp habitats

Diet: feed mainly on leaves, vegetables and flowers



Black Ant

Ants are social insects and live in large colonies – up to 15,000 in one colony. The ants we see most are wingless females known as worker ants, but in the summer months winged ants fly in large numbers to mate.

Scientific name: *Lasius niger*

Description: tiny insects with black, shiny bodies

Size: 3-5 mm (0.1-0.2 inches) long

Where: Europe, North and South America, Asia and Australasia; nests outside below ground, often under stones and paving

Diet: prefer sweet flavours, so will come into our homes looking for food; they 'milk' aphids for their sweet honeydew and also feed on fruits, nectar and small insects



Honeybee

Social insects that have been domesticated by humans for thousands of years: we harvest their honey and the beeswax that they use to make the hexagonal cells in their hives. They are important pollinators, particularly for apple trees. They communicate with one another by complex 'dances' in figure-of-eight patterns, which tell other bees where to find sources of pollen, nectar and water. Bees are in decline because of climate change, loss of habitat, pesticides and other factors.

Scientific name: *Apis mellifera*

Description: black and gold striped insects with two sets of wings that 'hook' together when flying; six legs – the back pair are hairy to hold pollen; five eyes – two large 'composite' eyes and three small eyes in the centre of their heads

Size: 1.2 cm (0.5 inches) long

Where: throughout the world; in the wild they build their hives in hollow trees and crevices in rock

When: March to September

Diet: nectar and pollen



Common Blue Damselfly

Damselflies are flying insects with long abdomens, similar to but smaller than dragonflies. One of the ways you can tell the difference between them is, dragonflies rest with their wings at right-angles to their bodies and damselflies rest with their wings held close to their bodies.

Scientific name: *Enallagma cyathigerum*

Description: male has long blue abdomen with black bands; female's abdomen is blue or dull green with black markings; lacy wings

Size: 3.2 cm (1.3 inches) long

Where: Europe; near bogs and ponds where they breed, also in gardens and woodland

When: April to September

Diet: insects



Ladybird

Ladybirds (called ladybugs in North America) are colourful, small flying beetles. The children's rhyme 'Ladybird, ladybird, fly away home' is well-known in Britain. There are several different species: the most common is the seven-spot ladybird.

Scientific name: *Coccinella septempunctata*

Description: its bright red wing-cases with black spots are a warning to predators that they taste unpleasant; three pairs of legs and two pairs of wings, only seen when it lifts its wing-cases to fly away

Size: 8 mm (0.3 inches) long

Where: throughout the world; parks, gardens, woodland, open countryside

When: March to October; hibernates during the winter

Diet: aphids and other small insects

Bugs