

10 cool species And their facts

Action for Insects Session 1 — Resource 3



1. Ladybird spider

An endangered arachnid (a spider — 8 legs, 2 body parts, rather than an insect — 6 legs, 3 body parts) found only a few sites in Dorset and Devon. Males are 6-9mm long, females are 10-16mm (only the males look like ladybirds!)



2. Stag beetle

The UK's largest beetle – males can reach 75mm long. They are named because their jaws look a bit like the antlers of a stag



3. Emperor dragonfly

One of the largest dragonflies in Europe at 78mm long. Like all dragonflies, the young (nymphs) spend years developing in ponds or ditches before emerging.



4. Ant Woodlouse

(Not an insect but a crustacean)

The smallest of the 30+ woodlice species in the UK. It is all white and lives in ants' nests where it cleans house for them by eating droppings.



5. Ruby tailed wasp

There are a number of different types but being only 10mm long they are easy to miss! They may be beautiful but they, like many wasp species, are parasites, feeding on others to survive.



6. Puss Moth caterpillar

Keep an eye out for this caterpillar on willow trees, one of their favourite plants. Like all butterflies and moths, after metamorphosis the adult looks very different.



7. Pill Millipede

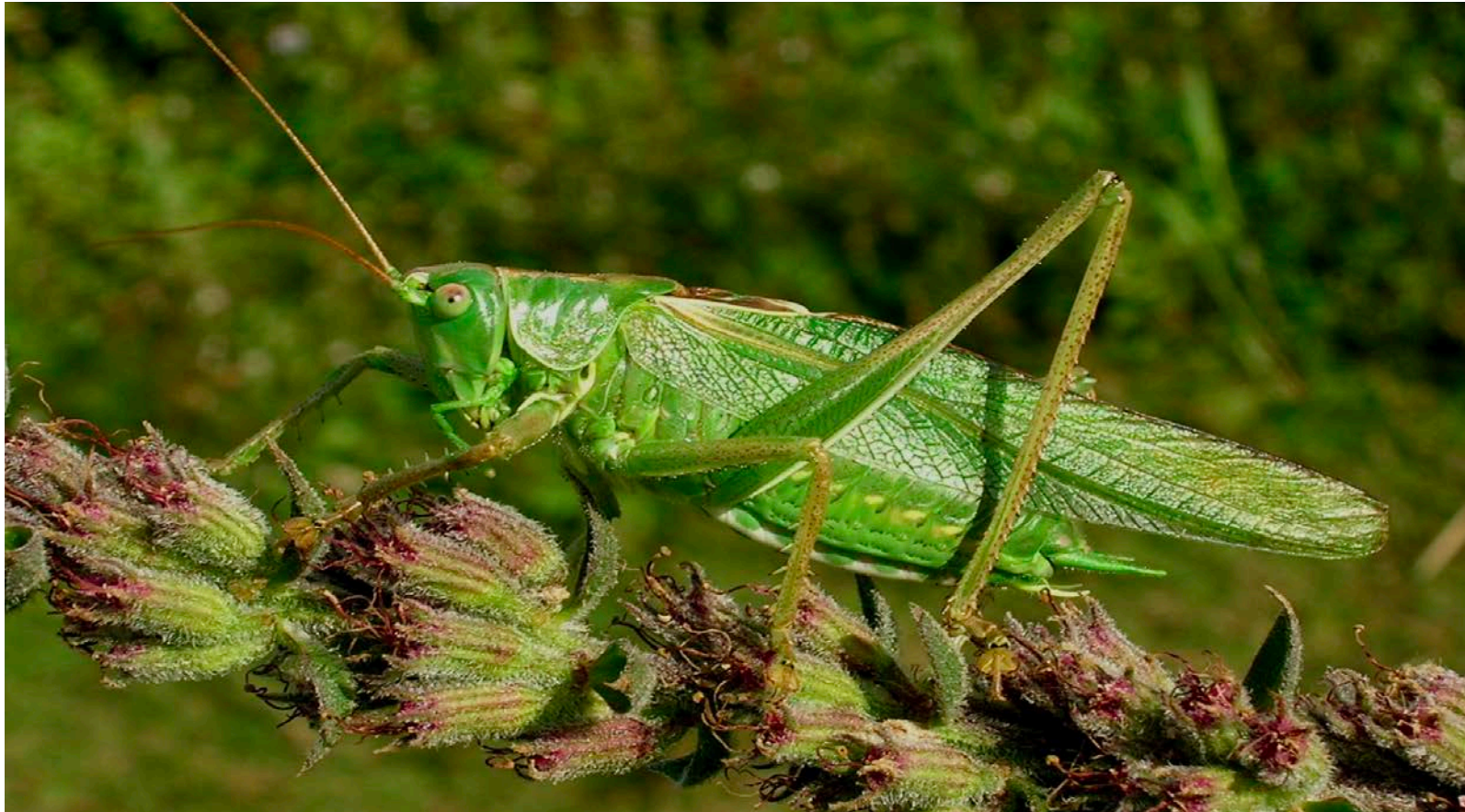
(Not an insect but a myriapod)

Don't be fooled, this is not a woodlouse though it does look one. It can roll itself into a complete ball (pill) when it is protecting itself.



8. Great Green Bush Cricket

At 7cm long this really is the largest of our cricket species. It is found in Southern England. The male “sings” to the female by rubbing his front wings together.



9. Glow Worm

This is actually not a worm but a beetle. It is the female that “glows” to attract the males but even the larvae and eggs can emit light.



10. Hornet Mimic Hoverfly

Pretending to be something else keeps you safe from predators. Many hoverflies do this, but this hornet mimic is the largest at nearly 2cm long. Don't be scared, they don't have a sting!

