



Garden Minibeast Spotter Sheet

Invertebrates are animals without backbones and examples include insects, non-insects and crustaceans. All invertebrates play an important role in the natural environment including pollination, decomposition or simply being food for other species.

Insects have 3 pairs of legs, 3 distinct body parts, compound eyes, pairs of wings and 2 antennae. These include species such as bees, butterflies, flies, grasshoppers and moths. Some species are not insects and do not have the 'classic' insect characteristics. These include spiders, worms, woodlice, millipedes, centipedes, slugs, and snails. Compared to insects, these species usually have more or less body segments and legs, lack antennae and wings and have simple eyes.

Gardens are great habitats for terrestrial invertebrates, with many different microhabitats present such as grass, trees, plants, stones, log piles, deadwood and ponds. This spotter sheet includes some of the easier species to identify, which can be found in your garden. It would be great to have more records and you can submit these through the biological recording app, iRecord.

Garden Spider



Large. Distinct white cross on abdomen. Can be reddish-brown, grey or black
1.3cm

Hornet Mimic Hoverfly



Large. Orange-yellow with dark bands and dark brown mid-section.
2cm

Common Garden Snail



Thick shell with 4-5 spirals. Usually pale brown with dark spiral bands, and flecks of white/yellow
2-4cm

Common Wasp



Black and yellow striped. Obvious waist. Black 'anchor' mark on face.
2cm



Black Oil Beetle



Shiny black, may have a violet-blue sheen. Small rounded tooth at base of body.
3cm



Common Rough Woodlouse



Oval, usually grey and mottled. Covered in tiny dimples. Looks rough and non-shiny. Base of antennae can be orange.
1.7cm

Red Admiral



Large and distinct. Black with white spots and orange/red lines.
6-7cm

Hummingbird Hawkmoth



Grey-brown forewings and orange hindwings. Grey body and black and white 'tail'. Distinct hovering flight.
5-6cm

Common Carder Bee



Our only ginger bee. Fluffy, orange/brown, sometimes with darker bands on abdomen.
2cm

Striped Millipede



Large and cylindrical. Brown or black with a pair of ginger/orange stripes along the back.
3cm

Great Green bush-cricket



Large. Green with orange-brown stripe along length of body. Long wings.
7cm

7 Spot Ladybird



Red with 7 black spots. 3 on each wing and 1 behind the head. Black and white patterned head.
6-8cm

