INSECTS OF MELBOURNE

WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF INSECTS

This guide will open your eyes to some of the most common, rare, colourful and curious insects you may spot around the city.

You can put this guide in your pocket for a nature walk, keep it in a handy place for when you see an insect in your garden, or simply admire it on your wall. However you choose to use it, the most important thing is to get to know your local critters.

DID YOU KNOW?

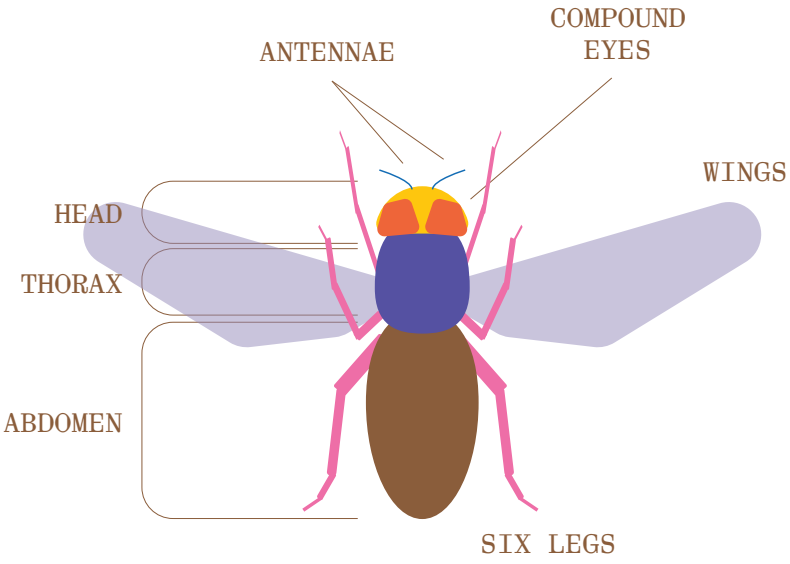
Australia is one of the most biodiverse places on the planet. We share this country with around 200,000 species of insects – and nearly 70% of them are found nowhere else. Here in the City of Melbourne alone, more than 1,500 insect species call our parks and gardens home.

Insects play an important role in our environment – they can help pollinate plants, maintain healthy soils, control pests, and provide food for bigger animals.

GET TO KNOW YOUR INSECT

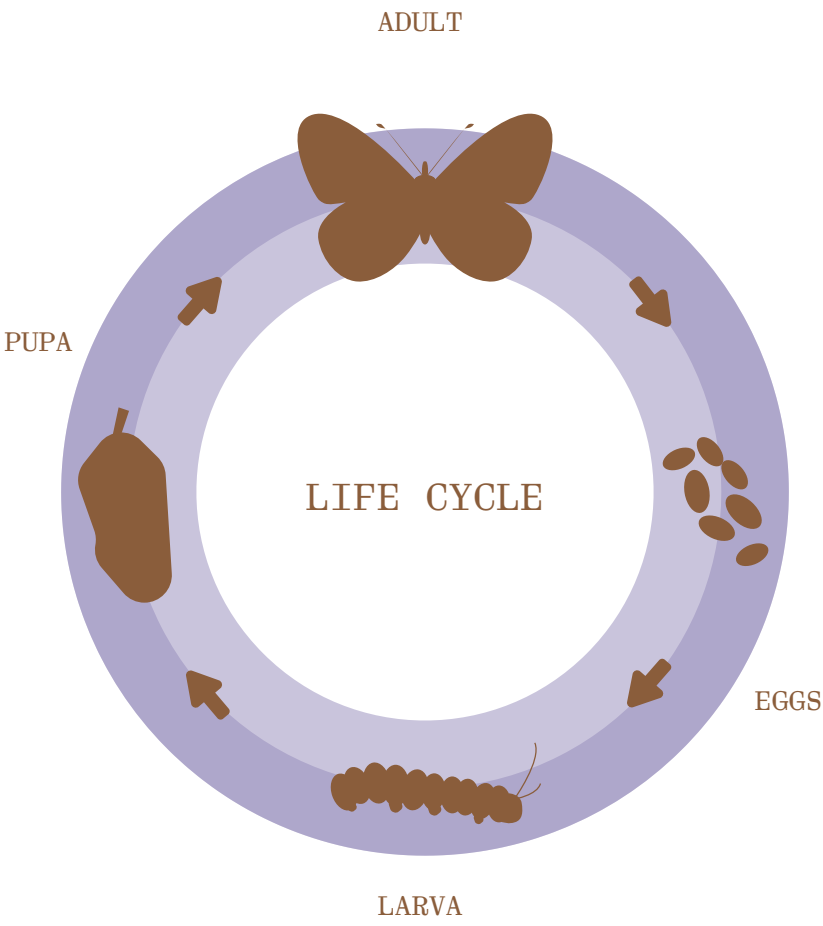
Insects are small animals that belong to a group called Arthopods. In their adult stage, they have a hard outer shell called an exoskeleton, with jointed legs and segmented bodies. Insects are also invertebrates, meaning they don't have a backbone.

COMMON INSECT FEATURES



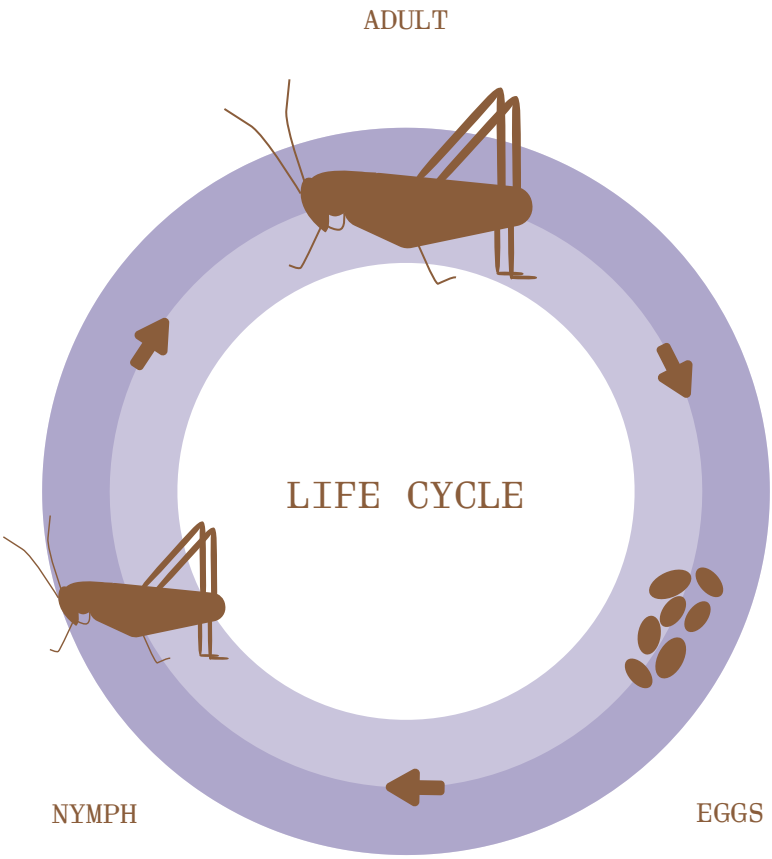
COMPLETE METAMORPHOSIS

There are two main types of insect life cycle. During complete metamorphosis, the adult looks completely different to their immature stages (larva, pupa). This is seen in butterflies, moths, beetles, bees, wasps, ants, lacewings, sawflies and flies.



INCOMPLETE METAMORPHOSIS

During incomplete metamorphosis, the immature form (nymph) looks similar to the adult except they are smaller and wingless. This is seen in dragonflies, damselflies, cockroaches, mantises, bugs, hoppers, cicadas, grasshoppers, katydids and crickets.



OBSERVING INSECTS

WHERE

You will be amazed by how many different insects are around your home. You can find them near flowers on a sunny day, by a lamp at night, in leaf litter on the ground, or inside a compost heap.

Some great local sites for insect spotting include:

— Royal Park, Parkville

— Westgate Park, Port Melbourne

— Test Garden, Fed Square

— Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, Melbourne

— Melbourne Pollinator Corridor Site, St Martins Youth Centre, South Yarra.

WHEN

You can find insects all year, although most insects are active in the warmer months. This is because insects are ectotherms, meaning they are cold-blooded and rely on outside warmth to activate their bodies. Spring and summer mornings are perfect when looking for insects like native bees and butterflies.

HOW

Taking photos of insects is important for identifying, recording and sharing your observations.

When taking photos:

— Aim for the whole insect in focus and as close up as possible

— Be patient, still and try not to block out the sun (they might run away!)

— If you miss capturing a photo, remember to record the shape, colour, size and any distinguishing features.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Many insect species are facing extinction driven by habitat loss, pollution and climate change. Here are some simple ways you can help.

PLANT LOCALLY NATIVE SPECIES

Local insects and plants have evolved alongside each other for millions of years. Many insects depend on or use resources from these plants.

KEEP ROCKS, LOGS AND LEAVES

Insects may use these habitat features to build their nests, warm their bodies and feed their babies.

GO NATURAL

Create a healthy ecosystem in your garden and manage weeds and pests without using chemicals.

TURN OFF LIGHTS AT NIGHT

Bright lights confuse and exhaust insects, keeping them from pollinating and feeding.

RECORD AND SHARE YOUR OBSERVATIONS

Join the community on iNaturalist.

Record your insect observations and make an important contribution to science.

LEARN MORE

City of Melbourne's Urban Nature Planting Guide
melbourne.vic.gov.au/planting-guide

City of Melbourne's Biodiversity Visual
biodiversity.melbourne.vic.gov.au

Test Garden, Fed Square
fedsquare.com/events/test-garden

The Melbourne Pollinator Corridor Handbook
heartscapes.org.au

Melbourne Museum
museumsvictoria.com.au

Entomological Society of Victoria
entsocvic.org.au

Invertebrates Australia
invertebratesaustralia.org

Field Naturalists Club of Victoria
fncv.org.au

iNaturalist
inaturalist.org

Agriculture Victoria (pest insects)
agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity

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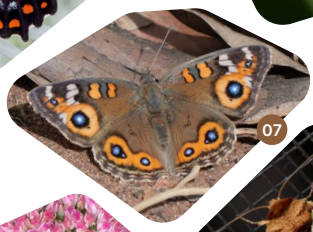
For a full bibliography containing individual credits please see:
melbourne.vic.gov.au/citizen-science-and-nature-education.
No changes to the original images were made.

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners
The City of Melbourne respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land we govern, the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Bunurong / Boon Wurrung peoples of the Kulin and pays respect to their Elders past and present. We acknowledge and honour the unbroken spiritual, cultural and political connection they have maintained to this unique place for more than 2000 generations.

We accept the invitation in the Uluru Statement from the Heart and are committed to walking together to build a better future.

CITY OF MELBOURNE
Heartscapes
FED SQ.
VICTORIA State Government
CREATIVE VICTORIA



Butterflies and moths taste with their feet.

! = Introduced Species

BUTTERFLIES + MOTHS

01 Common Brown
Heteronympha merope

02 Imperial Jezebel
Delias harpalyce

03 Lesser Grass Blue
Zizina otis

04 Dainty Swallowtail
Papilio anactus

05 Cabbage White
Pieris rapae

06 Australian Painted Lady
Vanessa kershawi

07 Meadow Argus
Junonia villida

08 Green Grass Dart
Ocybadistes walkeri

09 Yellow Admiral
Vanessa itea

10 Green-blotched Moth
Cosmodes elegans

11 Granny Moth
Dasypodia selenophora

12 Long-tailed Bombyx
Trichiocercus sparshalli

Unlike honey bees, none of Melbourne's bees live in hives. Most are solitary and nest in undisturbed, open ground.

BEES + ANTS

13 Woolly Sweat Bee
Lasioglossum lanarium

14 Square-headed Masked Bee
Hylaeus quadriceps

15 Chequered Cuckoo Bee
Thyreus caeruleopunctatus

16 Fierce Megachile
Megachile ferox

17 Common Wasp-mimic Bee
Hyleoides concinna

18 Blue-banded Bee
Amegilla sp.

19 Emerald Homalictus
Lasioglossum urbanum

20 European Honey Bee
Apis mellifera

21 Green-head Ant
Rhytidoponera metallica

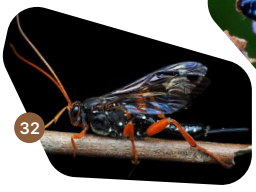
22 Yellow-collared Masked Bee
Hylaeus euxanthus

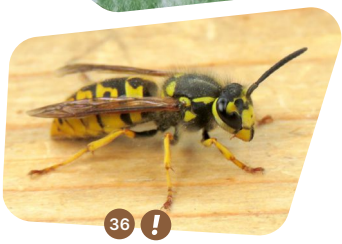
23 Bull Ant
Myrmecia pyriformis

24 Red-headed Spider Ant
Leptomyrmex erythrocephalus

25 Banded Sugar Ant
Camponotus consobrinus

Wasps have a narrow waist, but sawflies don't! Can you spot the sawfly here?





WASPS + SAWFLY

26 Cuckoo Wasp
Primeuchroeus sp.

27 Blue Flower Wasp
Austroscolia soror

28 Australian Paper Wasp
Polistes humilis

29 Yellow-headed Flower Wasp
Scolia verticalis

30 Orange Spider Wasp
Cryptocheilus bicolor

31 Tyde's Sand Wasp
Podalonia tydei

32 Cream-spotted Ichneumon
Echthromorpha intricatoria

33 Blue Ant (is a wasp!)
Diamma bicolor

34 Orchid Dupe Wasp
Lissopimpla excelsa

35 Orange Potter Wasp
Delta bicinctum

36 European Wasp
Vespula germanica

37 Bottlebrush Sawfly
Pterygophorus cinctus

One in four of all animals on Earth are beetles.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BEETLES

38 Plague Solider Beetle
Chauliognathus lugubris

39 Eucalyptus Variegated Beetle
Paropsisterna cloelia

40 Honeybrown Beetle
Ecnolagria grandis

41 Cowboy Beetle
Chondropyga dorsalis

42 Red and Blue Beetle
Dicranolaius bellulus

43 Fiddler Beetle
Eupoecila australasiae

44 Mealybug Destroyer
Cryptolaemus montrouzieri

45 Jewel Beetle
Melobasis sp.

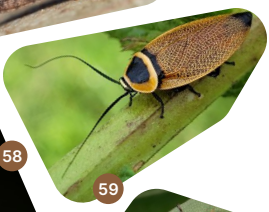
46 Golden Stag Beetle
Lamprima aurata

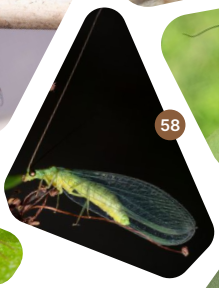
47 African Black Beetle
Heteronychus arator

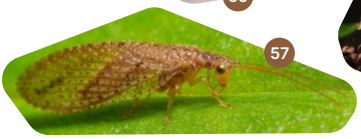
48 Fungus-eating Ladybird
Illeis galbula

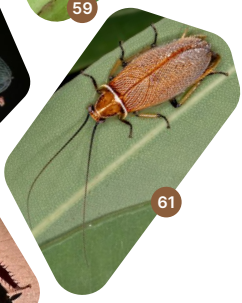
49 Large Spotted Ladybird
Harmonia conformis

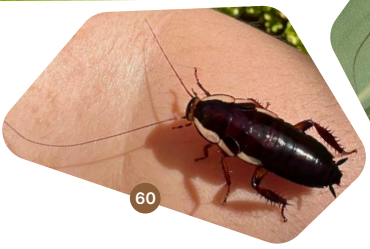
Dragonflies are incredible hunters – they have exceptional eyesight and can fly to speeds up to 60km an hour.











DAMSELFLIES + DRAGONFLIES + LACEWINGS + COCKROACHES

50 Australian Bluetail
Ischnura heterosticta

51 Blue-spotted Hawker
Adversaeschna brevistyla

52 Red and Blue Damsel
Xanthagrion erythroneurum

53 Blue Skimmer
Orthetrum caledonicum

54 Tau Emerald
Hemicordulia tau

55 Wandering Percher
Diplacodes bipunctata

56 Australian Variable Lacewing
Drepanacra binocula

57 Tasmanian Brown Lacewing
Micromus tasmaniae

58 Green Lacewing
Mallada signatus

59 Austral Ellipsidion
Ellipsidion australe

60 Gisborne Cockroach
Drymaplaneta semivitta

61 Balta Cockroach
Balta bicolor

Most flying insects have two pairs of wings, but flies only have one pair.

FLIES + MANTISES

62 Native Drone Fly
Eristalinus punctulatus

63 Boatman Fly
Pogonortalis doclea

64 Common Hoverfly
Melangyna viridiceps

65 European Blowfly
Calliphora vicina

66 Australian Fruit Fly
Austrotephritis poenia

67 Common House Fly
Musca domestica

68 Australian Garden Maggot
Bibio imitator

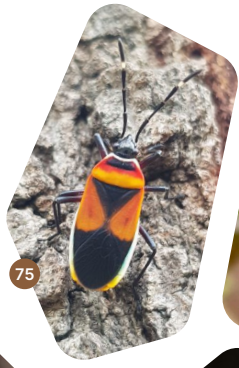
69 Hercules Robberfly
Neoaratus hercules

70 Cranefly
Symplecta pilipes

71 Snake Mantis
Kongobatha diademata

72 Purple-winged Mantis
Tenodera australasiae

73 False Garden Mantis
Pseudomantis albofimbriata



Leafhoppers can jump over 100 times their body length.

BUGS + HOPPERS + CICADAS

74 Red Jewel Bug
Choerocoris paganus

75 Harlequin Red Bug
Dindymus versicolor

76 Metallic Shield Bug
Scutiphora pedicellata

77 Schellenberg's Soldier Bug
Oechalia schellenbergii

78 Eucalyptus Tip-wilter Bug
Amorbus atomarius

79 European Fire Bug
Pyrrhocoris apterus

80 Gumtree Hopper
Eurymeloides pulchra

81 Grey Planthopper
Anzora unicolor

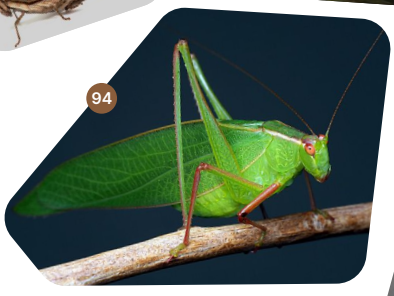
82 Passionvine Hopper
Scolypopa australis

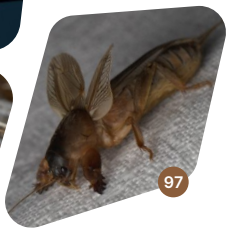
83 Green Grocer Cicada
Cyclochila australasiae

84 Silver Princess
Yoyetta celis

85 Red Scratcher
Popplepsalta rubristrigata

Grasshoppers make noise by rubbing their legs against their wings.





GRASSHOPPERS + KATYDIDS + CRICKETS

86 Giant Green Slantface
Acrida conica

87 Disappearing Grasshopper
Schizobothrus flavovittatus

88 Wingless Grasshopper
Phaulacridium vittatum

89 Common Macrotona
Macrotona australis

90 False Meadow Katydid
Conocephalomima barameda

91 Larapuna Grasshopper
Vandiemenella viatica

92 Greenish Meadow Katydid
Conocephalus upoluensis

93 Gumleaf Katydid
Torbia viridissima

94 Common Garden Katydid
Caedicia simplex

95 Australian Black Field Cricket
Teleogryllus commodus

96 Australian Plague Locust
Chortoicetes terminifera

97 Southern Mole Cricket
Gryllotalpa australis