



BUG BUDDIES

**MEET THE
SPIDER FAMILY**
and their
8 legged
relatives

WELCOME TO
THE RE-VAMPED
BUG BUDDIES
NEWSLETTER



MAKE YOUR OWN:
dead wood pile
for beetles!

FIND
OUT
INSIDE

Who whiffs of garlic and how to identify snails?

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BUG WORD



To all my aspiring bug buddies.

Thanks so much for getting involved in Buglife, I promise this will be the start of the grandest adventure you will ever embark on! I am lucky enough to have crossed the world's hottest deserts and climbed its highest mountains, yet can still go out in my own back yard and genuinely go exploring - finding species that I cannot identify, and seeing tiny dramas unfolding in front of my eyes as a spitting spider squirts silly string over its prey, or a centipede scurries off in search of its next meal. Best of luck for a lifetime of creepy crawly missions!

STEVE BACKSHALL

Wildlife presenter and Buglife Vice President



Ryklow Charitable Trust

A BIG THANK YOU

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Contact us:

Bug Buddies • Buglife • First Floor
90 Bridge Street • Peterborough
PE1 1DY
info@buglife.org.uk
www.buglife.org.uk

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BUG SPOTLIGHT

WHITE-CLAWED CRAYFISH



White-clawed crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*)

A crayfish is a freshwater lobster that is most active at night! The white-clawed crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*) is one of the largest freshwater invertebrates in the UK (12 to 16cm in length) and it can live for up to 10 years.

They live in freshwater rivers and streams where they like to hide in crevices. This crayfish is threatened by another crayfish that has been introduced into the UK from America. The American Signal crayfish (*Pacifastacus leniusculus*) carries a plague that infects the UK white-clawed crayfish causing them to die.

The White-clawed crayfish is an endangered animal. But, work is being carried out by Buglife and others to find and make safe places called 'Ark Sites' (a pond or lake where there are no Signal crayfish) for these beautiful creatures so they can live without the disturbance of Signal crayfish. For more information about this project visit www.crayfish.org.uk



White-clawed crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*)

Rare-O-meter

COMMON

RARE

BUG MAKES DEAD WOOD PILE FOR BEETLES



Stag beetle (*Lucanus cervus*)

Piles of dead, damp, rotten wood are a beetle's idea of heaven! Plus, lots of other insects and spiders will use it as a place to shelter and feed. Dead wood is not a common sight in the countryside anymore because it gets cleared away to make woodlands look tidy. This means the beetles and other insects lose their homes.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

Mixture of wood – sticks, logs and bark

Leaf litter – dead leaves and twigs

HOW TO MAKE IT:

- 1 Make a pile of dead wood and different sized logs with the bark on. Any size is fine but the bigger the better for beetles!
- 2 Add a pile of leaf litter to attract even more creatures, such as hibernating toads or hedgehogs.
- 3 To create perfect conditions for the beetles let the wood rot naturally in a damp, shady area.
- 4 You will need to add a new log each year as the old ones decay.
- 5 Make sure you keep your pile in a shady spot where it can stay dark and cool.



LET US KNOW HOW YOU
GET ON BY SENDING
A PHOTO OF YOUR
AND YOUR DEAD
WOOD PILE TO:
INFO@BUGLIFE.ORG.UK.

GET INVOLVED

THE SNAIL CHASE

Slugs, snails, clams, mussels, octopus and squid are all related! They are animals in the group called molluscs. Some people do not like snails because they believe all snails eat their garden plants. This is not true! Only a few snails are a problem. The rest play an important role in eating dead plants and recycling the goodness into healthy soil.

Snails lay down trails of slime, to slither along without using too much energy. Their shells are used as mobile homes, as protection from predators and help to stop their moist bodies from drying out.



Rounded snail (*Discus rotundatus*)



Pond snail (*Lymnaea stagnalis*)

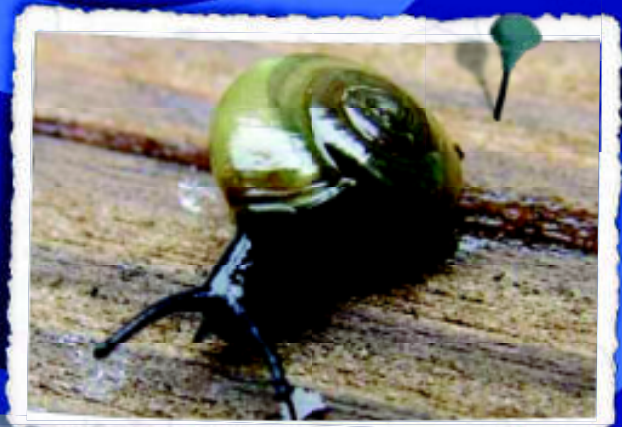
Brown-lipped snail (*Cepaea nemoralis*)

This little, stripy snail is a common sight in gardens and parks. It can come in a variety of colours from lemon yellow to plain brown. Look out for the brown edge on the adult shell.



Garden snail (*Helix aspersa*)

This well-known snail is a common sight in most gardens. It is known for its large appetite and is sometimes considered a nuisance. Look out for its big snail trails.



Garlic glass snail (*Oxychilus alliarius*)

This stinky snail eats wild garlic plants. If disturbed or threatened it can let off a strong whiff of garlic!

SNAIL MAIL BOX



CONGRATULATIONS to Louis O'Neil (aged 6) for his winning entry of Star Eyed Aphid Eater in the Insect Passport competition.



Well done to Elouise (aged 9) for her entry of Tootabazz. We especially like Tootabazz's special skills which included walking up walls and on the ceiling!



European paper wasp
(*Polistes dominulus*)

We loved this quote from Oliver Thomas (aged 7) who signed our Stop Swatting Wasps pledge. Oliver said "All bugs are important - this summer I let a wasp sit on my nose until my Dad could stop the car to let it out".

SPECIAL SNAIL MAIL

Buglife would like you to meet our youngest member Sam with his cuddly bug friend.



BEGINNERS GUIDE TO BUGS

SPIDERS AND THEIR RELATIVES

Spiders, harvestmen, scorpions, mites and ticks are all members of the arachnid family. They all have eight legs whereas insects only have six!

GARDEN CROSS SPIDER

This is the largest of the orb web spiders (meaning disc-shaped web) found in the garden. It has stripy legs and has a brownish abdomen with a cross made up of white spots.



HOUSE SPIDER

There are nine different types of house spider and their leg spans range from the size of a ginger nut to the size of a digestive biscuit. They have long, strong, brown hairy legs.



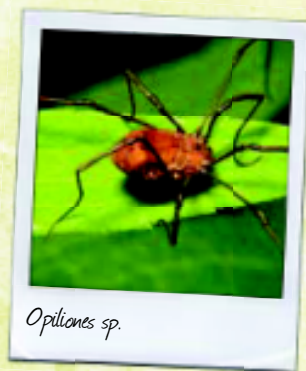
DADDY-LONGLEGS SPIDER

This spider has very long thin legs. It is different from a crane fly as they have wings. These spiders are usually in webs or walking on walls. They build very fine sheet webs with a mesh of fine sticky lines around it. They are famed for capturing other spiders.



HARVESTMAN

This is not a true spider. It is a relative with a round body all in one piece where as the daddy-longlegs spider has a long body in two parts. Unlike spiders, it has no silk glands and does not spin a web. It catches its prey by using the hooks on the ends of its legs.



MONEY SPIDER

These tiny spiders are known for their delicate sheet or hammock like webs found on the grass with the morning dew. Money spiders are light enough to take to the air on a parachute of silk. This is why they can suddenly appear on your arm, as if from nowhere. According to folklore when a money spider lands on you it can be a sign of good luck or of wealth.



JUMPING SPIDER

This black and white Zebra jumping spider is said to have the best eyesight of any spider (or any invertebrate for that matter). These small, jerky spiders are great fun to watch as they scuttle around on walls leaping on their prey.



Buglife NEWS



Common wasp (*Vespa vulgaris*)



Wasp nest

WILDLIFE PRESENTER NICK BAKER BECOMES A BUGLIFE WASP CHAMPION

Nick Baker, Steve Backshall and Buglife have been encouraging the public to learn to appreciate wasps, and to stop swatting them! Nick says "People don't realise that wasps are great recyclers, pollinators, pest control agents and above all they carry out their services in a vibrant buzz of colour and energy - wasps are among my favourite creatures". Over 70 people signed the Stop Swatting Wasps pledge and the winning entry said..."I love the wasps for keeping my favourite outdoor coffee spot peaceful - those who are noisy and make a fuss are driven indoors, while I sit quietly and still, enjoying the curious company of the wasps" by Miss Heidi Bradshaw.



Unarmed stick insect (*Acanthoxyla inermis*)

STICK INSECTS IN THE SOUTH WEST OF ENGLAND

This autumn Buglife and the national Stick Insect Recording Scheme asked people in the south west of England to look out for stick insects in their local area. Not many people realise that stick insects live in the wild in the West Country – they are not originally from the UK, but are able to survive in the south west thanks to their mild winters. Early autumn is a good time of year to look for stick insects; as the weather gets colder they seek warmth by basking on south-facing walls – this makes them easier to spot. If you see a stick insect please make a note of where you spotted it and take a photo. Then visit the Buglife website www.buglife.org.uk to find out where to send your stick insect sightings and photographs.



Solitary wasp
(*Ancistrocerus* sp.)



Rudd's ruby-tailed wasp (*Chrysis ruddii*)

BUG BRAINERS

CAN YOU WORK OUT WHAT THESE BUGS ARE?

A



B



C

