

About Bugs

A We Both Read Book

Level 2

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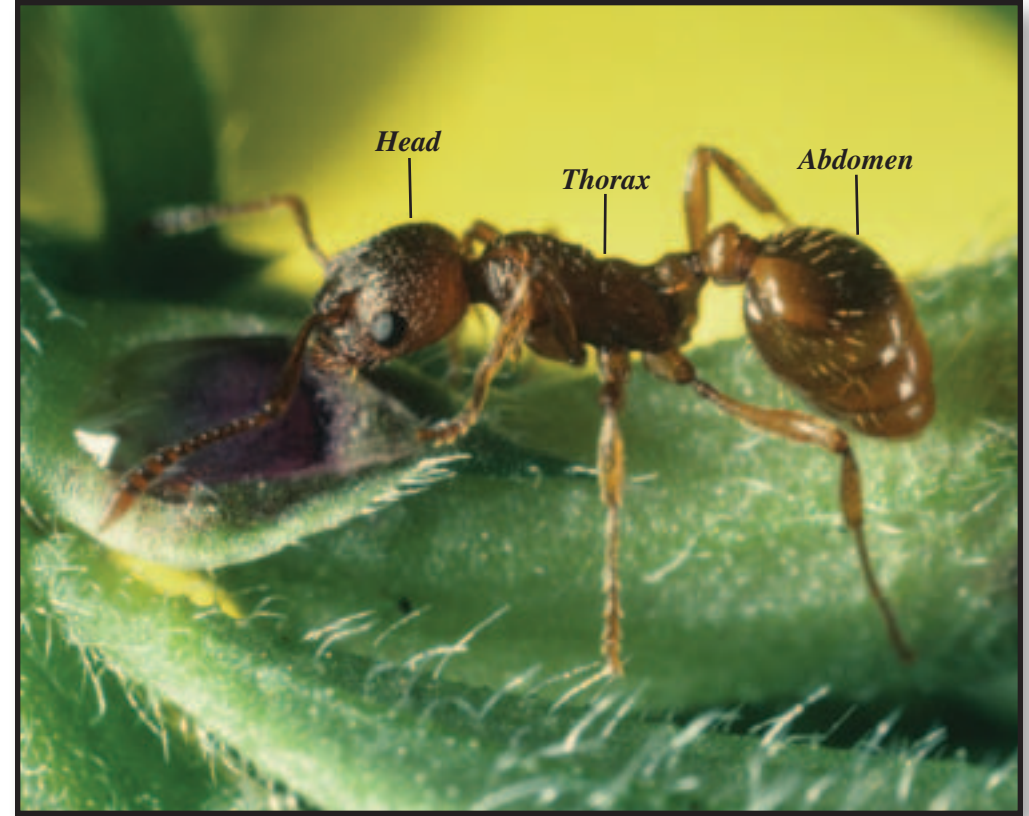


By Sheryl Scarborough

TREASURE BAY



Ladybug swarm



Red ant

☞ Does it sometimes seem like bugs are everywhere? Well, they *are*!

There are more bugs, or **insects**, in the world than there are people and all other animals combined. And different kinds of bugs can live in almost any weather condition, from extreme heat to freezing cold.

But just what is a bug?

☞ The proper name for a bug is “**insect.**”

The body of an insect has three parts.

All insects have six legs.

Spiders are *not* insects.

Spiders have eight legs.



Giraffe beetle (or weevil)



Rhinoceros beetle

One kind of insect is the **beetle**. There are over 500,000 species of **beetle**, each with its own distinct characteristics.

The bombardier **beetle**, for example, can shoot an attacking predator with a cloud of foul-smelling hot gas.

The **beetle** shown above is called the *giraffe beetle*. Can you guess why?

Beetles come in all shapes and sizes.

Some beetles are good. They eat other bugs.

Some beetles are bad. They eat plants and trees.

Some even eat the rugs in our homes!



Honeybee with stinger extended



Honeybee in flight

- Every **honeybee** hive has one queen that is in charge of the hive and will produce all the offspring. Each spring she sends her workers out to gather **pollen** and **nectar**. The bees then convert the **nectar** into honey, which will be stored for food.
Worker bees use their stingers to protect the hive's honey from other animals.

- The **honeybees** gather **pollen** and **nectar** from flowers.
They gather the pollen with their back legs.
Then they fly back to the hive with this food.



Praying mantis



Leaf-like mantid

- ☞ **Mantids** are often called *praying mantises* because the position of their front legs gives the impression they are praying.
Mantids have a huge appetite and eat just about any bug they can grab with their trap-like front legs. They sit very still until another insect approaches, then grab it and eat it alive!

- ☞ There are many kinds of **mantids**.
Some are hard to see when they are on a plant.
This helps mantids hide from animals that eat bugs.
This one looks like a leaf.