



# BEETLE SPECIES OF THE DAY



Here is a little bit of information about a few beetle species



(c) Roy Lowry

Did you know... that LADYBIRDS are a type of beetle? They form the 'COCCINELLIDAE' beetle family, with 46 species resident in the UK. Within this family the species are split into 'conspicuous' and 'inconspicuous'. We hold a total of 5948 ladybird records of 34 species from the last 10 years. One species you might spot in your garden is the 'conspicuous' 2-SPOT LADYBIRD. It's also the most likely of our native ladybirds to be found indoors in colder weather. Most individuals are red with 2 black spots, but some can also be black with red spots.

Species in the beetle family STAPHYLINIDAE, or ROVE BEETLES, normally have long abdomens and short elytra (wing cases) – they don't look like a 'classic beetle'! Despite there being over 1000 UK species, we only hold a total of 306 records since 2010. The biggest UK species and our most recorded in this group is the DEVIL'S COACH HORSE, a beetle traditionally associated with sinister forces! These nocturnal garden predators hunt other invertebrates, catching them with their large jaws.

(c) Roy Lowry



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LONGHORN BEETLES (CERAMBYCIDAE family) are so named for their long antennae, which are always at least the length of their body. Look out for these, often attractively coloured, beetles on flowers and deadwood. Despite there being 69 UK species, we only have records of 12 of these from the last 10 years. Our 3rd most recorded species (20 records since 2010), and one you might spot in your garden, is the striking BLACK-AND-YELLOW LONGHORN BEETLE. Rotten wood is an important habitat for this beetle as its larvae live there, and is a helpful garden feature to have for lots of other wildlife.

WEEVILS (family CURCULIONIDAE) are some of our most unusual looking beetles. Species in this family have 'elbowed antennae' and an elongated rostrum- the structure on their face resembling an elephant's trunk! Altogether we have 384 records of this group since 2010. The VINE WEEVIL is a species you may have heard of, as unfortunately it isn't generally liked by gardeners. Both adults and larvae feed on plants and each female can lay up to 1500 eggs in one go!

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One of our smaller UK beetle families with only 10 representatives, the OEDEMERIDAE family includes some very attractive metallic-looking species. The very aptly named THICK-LEGGED FLOWER BEETLE is probably the most well-known and males in particular can be easily identified by their bulging back legs. Females look similar but have average sized legs. They are important pollinators and can be spotted on open flowers on sunny days. We hold 140 records of this species from the last 10 years.

Member of the beetle family DYTISCIDAE or DIVING BEETLES are all carnivorous. We hold 551 records of this group since 2010, with the most recorded species (66 records) being one you may have heard of – the GREAT DIVING BEETLE. Both adults and larvae are amazing predators, feeding mostly on water invertebrates or tadpoles. They live in ponds and slow-moving water and adults may be spotted in garden ponds poking their rear-ends out of the water to gather air, which they store under their wing cases.



(c) Leanna Dixon

There are 374 species of UK GROUND BEETLE (family CARABIDAE), found in many different habitats. One of the most striking species in this group is the GREEN TIGER BEETLE. This is a really distinctive iridescent green beetle, most likely to be seen in areas with lots of bare ground such as heaths, dunes and brownfield sites. Both larvae and adults feed on small invertebrates, with larvae hiding in burrows waiting for passing prey items to tumble in so they can grab them! This is our most recorded ground beetle species with 41 records since 2010.



(c) Leanna Dixon

For the #MyPatch campaign we're looking for any records of garden wildlife, or wildlife seen out your window. There are a few ways you can send us this information...

- 1 Sign up to iNaturalist and become a member of the [project](#). Add observations through the app or website and any which fit the criteria will automatically be added to the campaign.
- 2 Email us with what you've seen: [info@record-lrc.co.uk](mailto:info@record-lrc.co.uk). Make sure you include all the details. Or send us paper records.
- 3 If you already use Rodis, iRecord or other recording platforms you can carry on with these if you'd like and we will pick up your records as we normally do.

