

# My Campus and Other Animals

Supporting you to access and engage with the nature on your doorstep



## Our Campus Invertebrates - Butterflies

In the UK there are 57 resident species of butterfly as well as 2 regular migrants (the Painted Lady and the Clouded Yellow). Currently, we have recorded 22 of these species at the University of Kent. Every year we take part in the Butterfly Conservation's Big Butterfly Count as well as taking part in additional surveys throughout the year. Due to their sensitive nature, butterflies are an important indicator for the overall ecosystem health especially as indicators of temperature changes. Additionally, areas with a large number of butterflies are often rich in other invertebrate species. At the University of Kent we use citizen science tools like iNaturalist to help us record the species that use our university. If you would like to get involved with the iNaturalist project you can use the link on our website.



### European Peacock

Their distinctive eyespot pattern evolved as a way to confuse predators and undersides of their wings are very dark to mimic dead leaves. This species is often seen later in the season on buddleias



### Large White

Large white butterflies referred to as 'cabbage white' butterflies along with small whites due to the fact that they lay their eggs on the undersides of brassica crops like cabbage and broccoli.



### Gatekeeper

Gatekeeper butterflies are often found where clumps of flowers grow in gateways and along hedgerows. Their favourite nectar sources include Wild Marjoram, ragworts, brambles and fleabane



### Red Admiral

Red Admirals are a migratory species that can be seen all across the UK. Due to climate change, some are now overwintering in the UK. Red Admirals have also been known to fly at night when migrating



### Common Brimstone

Brimstone butterflies are often one of the first butterflies seen in early spring as they hibernate as adults. Their leaf shaped wings allow them to be able to camouflage in plants like Buckthorn



### European Comma

The scalloped edges and brown underside of a comma's wings help hibernating adults camouflage in dead leaves when hibernating. Their most commonly used foodplant are nettles

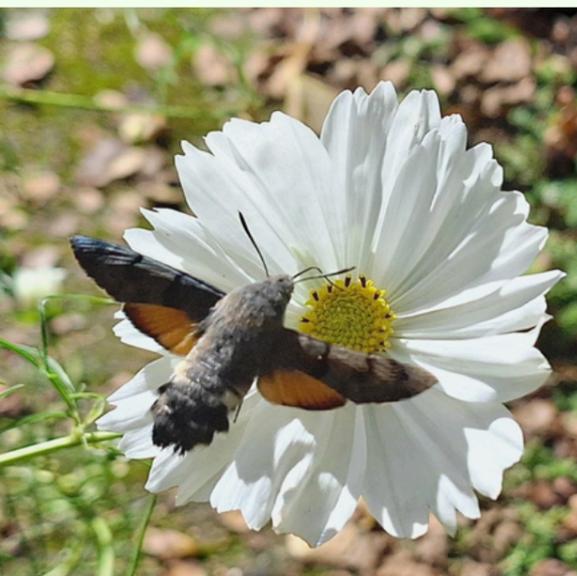
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## Our Campus Invertebrates - Moths

In the UK there are over 2500 species of moths. Butterflies and moths are both insects in the order Lepidoptera, but they differ primarily in appearance and behaviour. Moths are categorised into two groups - macro-moths (the larger ones) and micro-moths (the smaller ones) although sometimes micro-moths can be bigger than macro-moths so it can be confusing! In Kent alone 2167 species of moths have been recorded. At the University of Kent we conduct regular moth surveys using bucket traps and so far we have recorded 233 species using our campus. As well as our regular surveys, we use citizen science tools like iNaturalist to help us record the species that use our university. If you would like to get involved with the iNaturalist project you can use the link on our website.



### Eurasian Hummingbird Hawk-moth

A day flying moth. They are named due their similar look to hummingbirds when they feed and the humming sound that their wings make when they beat 70-80 times a second.



### Buff-Tip

These moths are experts at camouflage, able to mimic a broken birch tree twig when at rest. Adults are typically seen from late May to July and their yellow and black caterpillars can be seen July - October.



### Lunar Underwing

The Lunar Underwing moth can have very variable colouring between individuals from yellows and oranges to dark brown. It is a relatively common moth in Southern Britain.



### Cinnabar

Cinnabar moths are one of the most frequently seen day-flying moths at the University of Kent. Their black and yellow caterpillars feed on the leaves and flowers of common ragwort.



### Feathered Thorn

Feathered Thorn's can be seen from mid-September to early December. Only the males have their distinctive feathery antennae which they use to help them detect females.



### Black Rustic

Black Rustic's are a common species in southern Britain. Adults can be seen feeding on the flowers of Ivy and overripe blackberries but caterpillars feed on plants like heather and clover.

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## Our Campus Invertebrates - Beetles

There are over 4000 species of beetles in the order Coleoptera UK. These insects make up a massive portion of UK biodiversity and they are characterised by their hard protective wing cases (known as elytra). Many of these invertebrates often play an important part in the ecosystem through feeding on dead wood or the control of 'pest' species like slugs in gardens. So far, at the University of Kent we have recorded 80 beetle species - many at Kent Community Oasis Garden where we provide habitats such as log piles and other hibernacula to support them. As well as our regular surveys, we use citizen science tools like iNaturalist to help us record the species that use our university. If you would like to get involved with the iNaturalist project you can use the link on our website.



### Minotaur Beetle

They are large round dung beetles that can be found in grasslands and heathland. They provide dung for their larvae in nests up to 1.5m deep. The males use their horns to defend their nests.



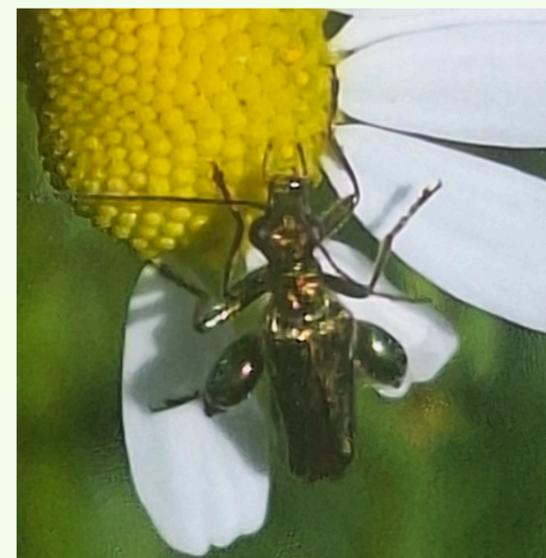
### Violet Ground Beetle

Violet ground beetles are active predatory beetles that come out at night to hunt other invertebrates such as slugs in gardens. These beetles often rest during the day under logs, stones and leaf litter.



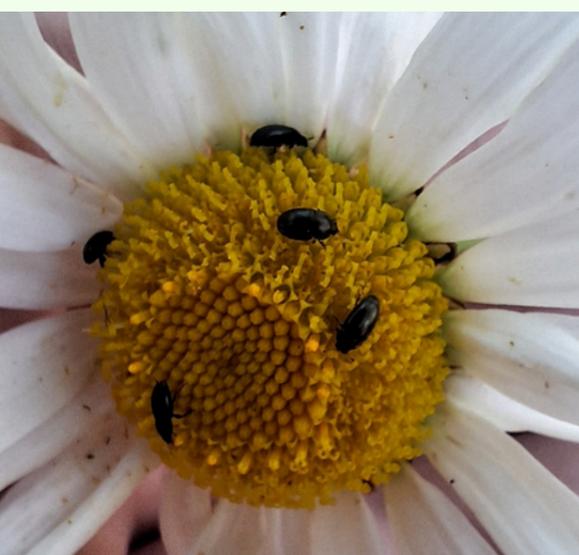
### Devil's Coach Horse Beetle

These beetles are fast moving, nocturnal predators. They have strong pincer-like jaws and are known to curl up their abdomens like the tail of a scorpion when threatened



### Thick-legged Flower Beetle

Only males have the distinctive 'thick legs' that their name comes from. These beetles are most likely to be seen on warm, sunny days feeding on pollen from a range of flowers.



### Pollen Beetles

Pollen beetles are 2 - 3 mm green or black beetles. As their name suggests, these beetles feed on pollen and are important pollinators especially of UK garden flowers. They can mainly be seen in Spring.



### Black Clock Beetle

Black Clock's are a flightless ground beetle found throughout the UK. They are nocturnal omnivores both preying on caterpillars and slugs as well as eating plant material. Adults can be seen in Summer