

# Common Invertebrates

*A series of ID guides to help you discover more of Leicestershire's wonderful wildlife*

The species here are all common invertebrates not covered in our other ID guides. Though small, invertebrates form the huge majority of UK's animal wildlife and are the backbone of the ecosystem. They recycle dead organic matter, keep other species in check and provide food for other animals. Every species has a fascinating and unique life history and demonstrates amazing adaptations – shapes, sizes, colours and behaviours – to enable it to feed, avoid being eaten and to successfully breed. *When viewing online, simply click on the species name to find out more.*



**Green Shieldbug – *Palomena prasina***

**ID:** To 13mm. Shield-shaped. Green in Spring/Summer, turning bronze in Autumn.

**Where:** Parks, gardens. Sunning on leaves.

**Similar:** None.



**Hairy Shieldbug – *Dolycoris baccarum***

**ID:** To 13mm. Purple and brown, turning duller in Winter. Hairy. Black/white edges and barred antennae.

**Where:** Gardens, hedges, woodland edges.

**Similar:** [Marmorated Stink-bug](#) (not hairy).



**Common Earwig – *Forficula auricularia***

**ID:** To 13mm. Red/brown. Male 'pincers' rounded, female 'pincers' are straight.

**Where:** Under logs, in flowerheads.

**Similar:** None.



**Pill Woodlouse – *Armadillidium vulgare***

**ID:** To 18. Usually slate-grey but can have red/brown mottling. Rolls into a ball when disturbed.

**Where:** Wall cracks, under stones.

**Similar:** Pill Millipede (lacks the narrow plates near tail).

**Become a citizen scientist!** If you can spot any of these species, why not submit your sighting at [www.naturespot.org.uk](http://www.naturespot.org.uk) and contribute to our scientific knowledge of local wildlife. Record data submitted by the public is vital to conservation. Simply register online then follow the guidance on the Submit Records page.

**Other common Leicestershire invertebrates to check out:**

[Hawthorn Shieldbug](#), [Striped Woodlouse](#), [Face Fly](#), [Speckled Bush-cricket](#), [Tiger Cranefly](#)



**Noon Fly – *Mesembrina meridiana***

**ID:** All black, bluebottle-sized, with golden wing bases, 'toe nails' and face bars.

**Where:** Sunning on fences and tree trunks. Late summer.

**Similar:** None.



**Dark-edged Bee-fly – *Bombylius major***

**ID:** Furry brown with very long proboscis. Front half of wings dark. Hovers, dropping eggs into bee nests.

**Where:** Gardens, hedges. Spring.

**Similar:** Other Bee-flies lack the dark wing pattern.



**Yellow Dung Fly – *Scathophaga stercoraria***

**ID:** Male is yellow and furry. Female (inset) is greener and less hairy. Adults are predators and breed in dung.

**Where:** Common around cow pats. March-Nov.

**Similar:** None.



**Dock Bug – *Coreus marginatus***

**ID:** To 15mm. Brown with rounded abdomen.

**Where:** Common on Dock leaves from April.

**Similar:** Box Bug (parallel abdomen).



**White-legged Snake Millipede *Tachypodoiulus niger***

**ID:** Black tubular body with bright white legs and a blunt pointed projection from the last segment.

**Where:** Under logs in woods, parks, hedges.

**Similar:** Other millipedes lack these features.



**Silverfish – *Lepisma saccharina***

**ID:** 15mm. Silvery grey with pale antennae and cerci (tail projections).

**Where:** Bathrooms, garages, basements with high humidity. All year.

**Similar:** None.

Find more Leicestershire  
Wildlife ID Guides at:  
[www.naturespot.org.uk/IDguides](http://www.naturespot.org.uk/IDguides)



**Leicestershire  
County Council**

**NatureSpot**



NatureSpot is a registered charity – visit [www.naturespot.org.uk](http://www.naturespot.org.uk)