

Butterflies and Little Eyes

• IRISH INSECTS •



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Hover-fly • An Chuil Fholuaineach



17 St. Andrew Street, Dublin 2.
Tel: 01-888 3910 / 01-888 3933
email: info@enfo.ie web: www.enfo.ie

Sciatháin Bheaga agus Súilíní

• FEITHIDÍ ÉIREANNACHA •

Devised and photographed by Diarmuid Ó Gráda
Designed by Denis Baker, The Unlimited Design Co.



Wasp • An Foiche

Wasps are social creatures that live in large colonies. They cluster together in round nests built from papery material, formed by chewing wood fibres. They have short lives, as only the mated queen survives the winter. In late summer they enter houses looking for sweet food. However, their sting is mainly used in hunting small insects to feed their young. It is also a defence against birds. Irish wasps are about 20 mm in length.

Maireann na foichí i dteannta a chéile i nead de dheántús ábhar ar nós páipéir. Saol gearr a bhíonn acu agus is í an bhanríon amháin a thagann slán as fuacht an gheimhridh. Dhá phéire sciathán ceangailte le chéile a bhíonn orthu. Sa samhradh, cuireann an foiche as do dhaoine sa teach agus san ionad picnice, mar meallann bianna mílse é. Tá a chealg pianmhar ach go príomha is chun seilge ar fheithidí beaga a úsáideann sé é. É sin, nó chun é féin a chosaint ar éin. Bíonn an foiche atá againn in Éirinn thart ar 20 mm ar fhaid.



Spider • An Damhán Alla

In Irish literature, spiders, bees and butterflies are probably the most celebrated small animals. Yet, spiders are not strictly insects. All spiders are predatory. They use various methods to catch their prey. The most familiar is the web made from silky thread. Others lie in wait, ambushing their victims. Flies of all kinds, even butterflies, craneflies and wasps are eaten. Adult spiders vary enormously in size, ranging in length from 3 to 20mm.

Ní feithid an damhán alla dar leis an lucht eolaíochta. Is ainmhithe creiche na damháin alla go léir. Bíonn cuma álainn ar na líonta d'ábhar shiodach a shníonn siad ach is gaiste iad chun greim a bhreith ar chréatúirí beaga. Bíonn siad ullamh le léim ar ainmhithe neamhurchóideach éigin ag gabháil thar bráid. Itheann siad culleanna den uille chineál, féileacán fíú, agus foichí. Is iomaí sórt damháin alla in Éirinn. Bíonn a bhformhór idir 3mm agus 20mm ar fhaid.



Moth • An Leamhan

Unlike butterflies, moths are nocturnal. There are exceptions, of course. Day flying moths have evolved defensive mechanisms, including poison and warning colours (usually red). These deter birds and other predators. Otherwise, drab exteriors conceal them as they feed on flowerheads. Moths have decreased in Ireland due to habitat loss and pesticides. This has serious repercussions for other animals on the same food chain, such as spiders, birds, mice and frogs. Adult moths have a wing span varying from as little as 5 mm up to 50 mm.

Murab ionann agus na féileacán, is san óiche a bhíonn formhór na leamhan gníomhach. Bíonn dathanna liathdhonna ar roinnt acu, rud a chiallaíonn gur deacair iad a thabhairt faoi deara nuair a lígeann siad a scith i rith an lae. Dhá phéire de sciatháin mhóra ghaineacha a bhíonn acu. Is minic a mheallann soilse na leamhain, cé nach bhfuil siad chomh forleathan agus a bhíodh. Athraithe ar mhodhanna talamhaíochta, maraon le breis lotnaiticídí, is cúis leis sin. Cúis imní é seo mar is ábhar bia na leamhain d'ainmhithe beaga eile ar nós éin, lucht agus na damháin alla. Réise sciathán timpeall 5mm atá ag na leamhain is lú agus 50mm ag na cinn is mó.



Damselfly • An tSnáthaid Bheag

Damselflies are smaller than dragonflies but they are just as colourful. Most of them are red or blue. In flight they appear weaker and more delicate. In their resting position their wings are folded over their bodies, unlike the dragonfly, which keeps them outstretched. The adult body length ranges from 30 to 45mm, and wingspan from 30 to 50mm. Water pollution and drainage schemes have greatly diminished the haunts of both damselflies and dragonflies.

Is lú iad seo ná na snáthaidí móra cé go bhfuil siad gach oiread chomh dathúil leo. Dath dearg nó gorm de ghnáth a bhíonn orthu. Ar an talamh, filléann said siar na sciatháin thar an gcorp, murab ionann is an tsnáthaid mhór a shíneann amach iad go cliathánach. Tá truailliú agus sceimeanna draenála tar éis cur isteach go mór ar na snáthaidí in Éirinn, idir beag agus mór. Réise sciathán idir 30 agus 50mm is minic atá ag na feithidí seo.



Shield Bug • An Fhríd Scéithe

These little creatures have a flat-broad body that resembles a heraldic shield. They are commonly found in hedgerows containing suitable plant food. Many of them are predominately green and that helps them to avoid prey. They do, however, turn up in suburban gardens, especially those not too zealously tended. Adults are usually 15 mm long.

Airítear go bhfuil thart ar 40 speiceas frídí scéithe in Éirinn agus sa Bhreatain. Dath glas nó donn a bhíonn ar a bhformhór, rud a cheileann ar a naimhde iad. Bíonn corp leathan cothrom acu ar nós sciath armais. Súlach plandaí a chaitheann cuid acu agus feithidí beaga a sheilgeann cuid eile. Bíonn siad le feiceáil i ngairdíní cathrach, go háirithe sna paistí garbha sin go ndéantar failliú iontu. De ghnáth bíonn na cinn lánfhásta 15mm ar fhaid.



Butterfly • An Féileacán

These may be the most popular insects. Most of them are brightly coloured. They remind us of sunny days. Irish butterflies are associated with the hedgerows and grassy fields that yield food for their caterpillars. Some species overwinter as eggs or larvae, while others hibernate, all depending on food supply. We have over 20 widespread species although habitat change, mainly by farming methods, has greatly reduced their numbers. Global warming may encourage more species to visit this island. Adult butterflies vary in size (wing spread) from 25 to 75 mm.

Is dócha gurb iad seo na feithidí is mó a thaitníonn le daoine. Ní haon ionadh é sin mar go bhfuil said chomh dathúil. Ar laethanta greine a fheicimid iad. Áiteanna glasa, cosúil le fáil thart ar pháirc nó coill craobhach, a thaitíonn siad. Ólann siad neachtar. Tá laghdú mór tagtha ar líon na bhféileacán in Éirinn, go mórthóir de dheasca athraithe i gcursál talamhaíochta. Ceaptar go gcuirfidh téamh na cruinne leis an réimse féileacán sa tír seo. Toisc easpa soláthar bia, codlaíonn cuid acu sa gheimhreadh. Caitheann féileacán eile an geimhreadh mar ubh nó mar chruhb. Réise sciathán 25mm atá ag na féileacán is lú agus 75mm acu sin is mó.



Dragonfly • An tSnáthaid Mhór

Ireland's damp climate provides widespread habitats for these large colourful insects. On summer days, their sparkling wings catch the sunlight. Their four long wings give them great agility. They can even fly backwards. Large protruding eyes help to locate prey. They mainly hunt flies. They are on the wing between May and October. Dragonflies have narrow bodies, ranging in length from 50 to 90 mm.

Lá samhraidh, is breá an radharc iad na snáthaidí móra agus a gcuid sciathán ag glioscarnaigh i solas na greine. Tá cloigeann mór orthu agus is féidir leo é a chorrat go saoráideach. Súile móra atá acu freisin. Oireann aeráid tais na tíre seo do na feithidí gleoite seo. Is creachadóirí iad agus is ar eite a bheireann siad ar a gcreach. Míoltóga agus cuileanna is mó a chaitheann siad. I rith an lae a bhíonn siad thart, os cionn uisce nó in aice leis de ghnáth. Bíonn corp tanaí acu, idir 50 agus 90mm ar fhaid.



Grasshopper • An Dreoilín Teaspigh

Visitors to the countryside on bright summer days notice the chirping call of grasshoppers. Ireland is fortunate in having so many grassy areas favoured by these elusive creatures. They have a wide range of colouring, but mainly green or brown, which enables them to blend into the background. Body length is 20 mm approx. Grasshoppers live from spring to autumn, on a diet of grass. Survival depends on laying eggs in the soil before the weather gets too cold.

Lá samhraidh is féidir an dreoilín teaspigh a aithint ón bhfuaim dhioscánach a dhéanann sé. Is ag lorg céile nó ag iarraidh a limistéar féin a chosaint a bhíonn sé agus é ag craobhscaoileadh amuigh sna páirceanna. Thart ar 20mm ar fhaid atá an corp. Maireann sé ó earrach go fómhar ag ithe plandaí féaracha. De ghnáth, beirtear uibheacha sa talamh roimh fhuacht an gheimhridh ach ní thagann faic astu go dtí an t-earrach dár gcionn.



Longhorn Beetle • An Chiaróg Fhadadharcach

Many different types of longhorn beetle can be seen in Ireland. Most of them pass quiet lives feeding on wood. That makes some of them unpopular. However, they also feed on dead trees, forming an important link in a food chain. As wood is not very nutritious food, the larvae must spend two or three years growing up. Adults have an overall length of 25mm approx.

Meastar go bhfuil thart ar 70 speiceas ciaróga fadadharcacha in Éirinn agus sa Bhreatain. Is suntasach na hadharcáin a bhíonn go minic chomh fada leis an gcorp nó níos faide. De ghnáth feictear iad gar do chrainn nó do bhliáthanna. Pailín a chaitheann siad agus adhmaid marbh is fearr a thaitíonn leo. Dá bharr sin, tá páirt nach beag acu ag cur seanchrainn chun bealaigh. Toisc gur beag cothú atá san adhmaid, bíonn na larbháí óga suas le trí bliana ag fás. Bíonn na creatúirí lánfhásta thart ar 25mm ar fhaid.



Bluebottle • An Chuil

A metallic blue sheen marks out these creatures. However, that brilliance belies an unsavoury lifestyle. The young larvae, known as maggots, feed on dead animals. Some are parasites. On bright days bluebottles enter houses, looking for food. They rest on walls. Adults are over 10 mm long. We should accept bluebottles as part of a food chain. Just as they feed on animals, they are themselves later eaten by other animals.

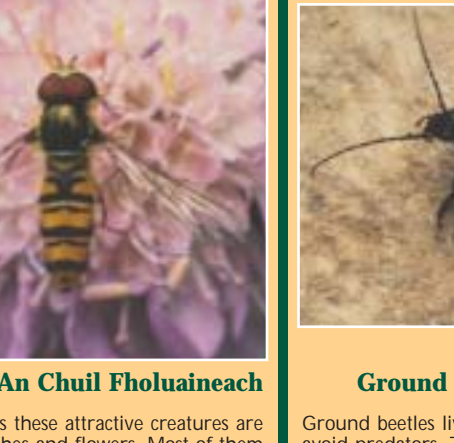
Tá líon mhór speiceas cuileanna in Éirinn. Súile móra agus dhá sciatháin a bhíonn orthu. Maireann cuid acu ar ábhar lofa agus tá feidhm leo mar chuid den bhiashlabhra. Itear iad féin in am tráth ag ainmhithe eile. Is seadán roinnt acu. Tagann na cuileanna tí isteach i dtithe ag lorg bia. Is maith leo a scith a lígeann ar na ballaí. Bíonn siad thart ar 10mm ar fhaid.



Crane-fly • Snáthaid An Phúca

Irish craneflies are known as 'daddy-long-legs'. Unlike dragonflies, they have only one pair of wings. The female can be recognised by her pointed tail. However, that is not used for stinging. She uses it to inject her eggs into the soil. The larvae, known as leatherjackets, feed on grass roots and other plants. That makes them unpopular with farmers but they provide a snack for birds such as crows and choughs. Some craneflies have bright colour patterns. The adults are almost 25 mm long.

Tá péire amháin sciatháin agus ceithre phéire cos ag an gcreatúir seo. Bíonn na cosa níos faide ná an corp. Is furasta an ceann baineanann a aithint óna heireaball bioránach. Ní le cealg a chur, áfach, a úsáideann sí é ach lena cuid uibheacha a shá sa chré. Bíonn dathanna geala ar chuid de na snáthaidí fásta agus iad timpeall 25mm ar fhaid. Maireann na larbháí óga ar fhréamhacha féir agus plandaí eile. Dá thoradh sin ní maith le feirmeoirí iad, ná le lucht garraíodóireachta. Itheann préacháin iad go minic.



Hover-fly • An Chuil Fholuaineach

On summer days these attractive creatures are seen around bushes and flowers. Most of them are between 10mm and 15mm in length. They are great acrobats, by turn hovering and darting in the sunshine. Through evolution, they have evolved to mimic wasps and bees. That is a great defence against predators, although they have no sting. Some of the larvae perform a useful function, feeding on aphids.

Ar laethanta geala, bíonn na cuileanna dathúla leo le feiceáil thart ar bhliáthanna agus ar sceacha. Trí'n éabhlóid, tá crot orthu cosúil le beach nó foiche. Is mór an cúnadh é sin le heálú ó éin nó ainmhithe eile a d'ionsóidh iad. Tá a bhformhór idir 10mm agus 15mm ar fhaid. Tá an-chumas eitilte acu. Soicind amháin, sminneann siad thart. Soicind eile, sin romhat amach iad ar foluain. Bíonn fáilte ag garraíodóirí rompu mar go nithéann na larbháe míolta beaga a dhéanann díobháil do phlandaí.



Ground Beetle • An Daol

Ground beetles live nocturnal lives in order to avoid predators. They have developed a tough shell for extra protection. Three pairs of long legs allow a rapid escape from trouble. These creatures feed on small insects and vegetables, as well as dead animals. They can be seen throughout the year although they hibernate during very cold weather. Adults are usually about 25 mm long.

Is istoiche a bhíonn na feithidí seo gnóthach. Úsáideann said an dorchadas chun ionsaithe ó ainmhithe eile a sheachaint. Bíonn na sciatháin tosaigh crua agus tagann siad le chéile i líne dhíreach i lár an droma. Baintear feidhm as na sciatháin deiridh chun eitilte. Bíonn adharcáin agus trí phéire cos acu. Is féidir iad a fheiceáil ó cheann ceann na bliana cé go dtagann codladh geimhridh orthu má eiríonn an aimsir ró-fhuar. De ghnáth, bíonn said thart ar 25mm ar fhaid.