

LEVELED BOOK • I



Extreme Insects



Written by Sylvia Ives Baxter

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Robber fly



A robber fly dines on another insect.

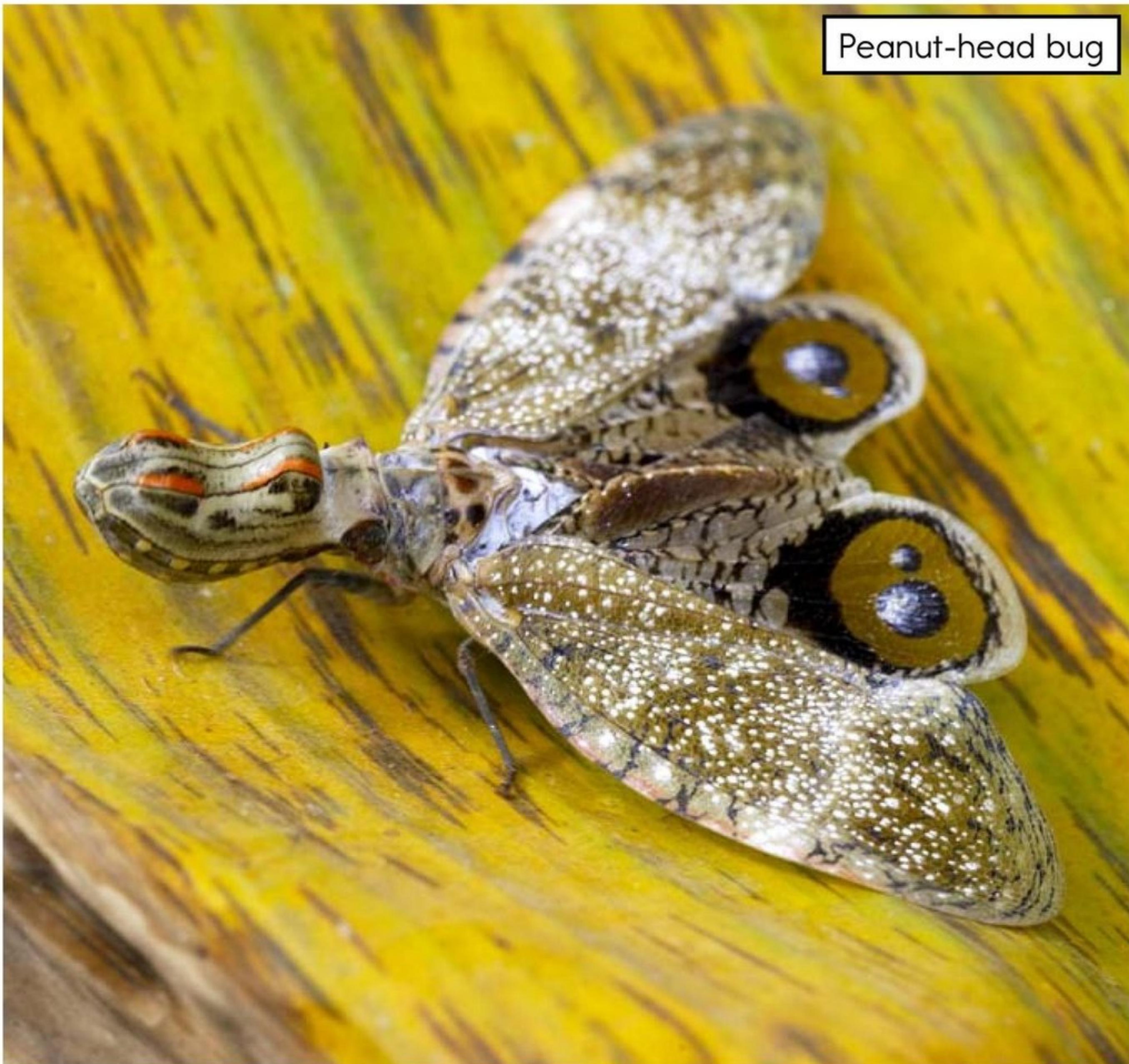
Introduction



Insects are always in danger.

They have many enemies.

They are food for each other
as well as other animals.



A peanut-head bug's looks and its skunk-like spray help keep it alive.

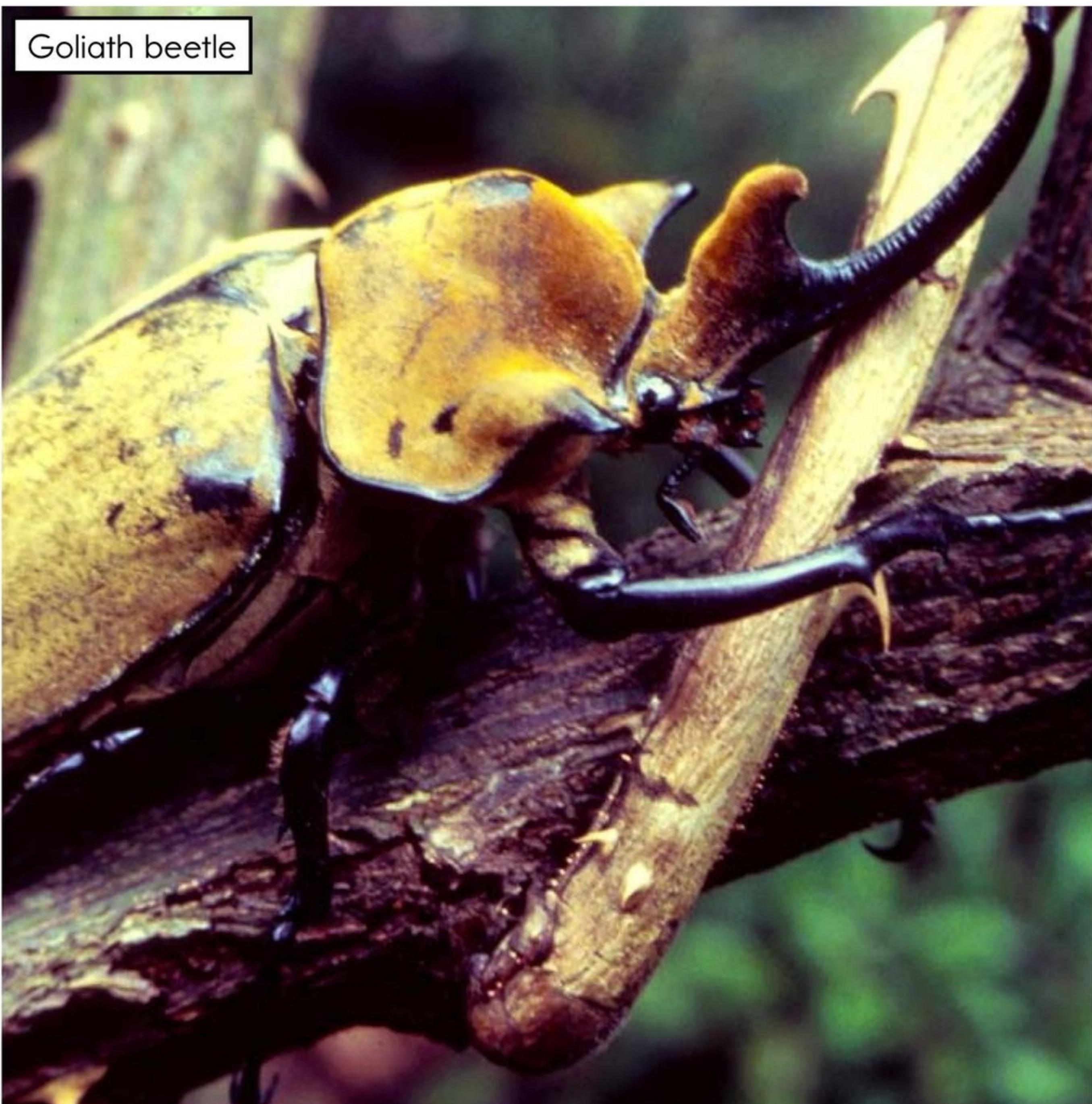


Insects have many **traits** that help them stay alive.

These traits include size, looks, and weapons.

Let's look at some of the **extreme** traits insects have that help them.

Goliath beetle



Goliath beetles are one of the largest insects in the world.

Extreme Size



This beetle can grow as long as a pen.
It can weigh as much as a banana.
Extreme size and a hard cover
protect it from its enemies.



A walking stick's size and looks help keep it from being eaten



This insect can grow longer than
a new pencil.

Its size frightens smaller insects away.
Animals don't eat it because
they think it is just a big stick.

Trash bug



Trash bugs carry leftovers on their backs to hide from animals that might eat them.

Extreme Look-Alikes



Many insects look like other things. Their looks help them hide from animals that want to eat them.



Katydid

Can you find the insect in this picture?



Some insects look like parts of plants.
They can look like leaves, flowers,
stems, or even thorns.

Sphinx moth caterpillar



A Sphinx moth caterpillar can puff up its spots so it looks like a cobra.



There are insects with large fake eyes to scare hungry animals away. When scared, this **caterpillar** can make itself look like a snake.



Ambush bug

Ambush bugs have thick front legs to catch bees and flies.

Extreme Weapons



Some insects have extreme weapons to help them survive. Some of these insects use their weapons to get food. Others use their weapons to keep from becoming food.

Antlion larva



An antlion larva traps and eats ants with its extreme jaws.



This insect digs a pit in the sand.

It traps ants in the pit.

Then it grabs an ant in its large,
sharp jaws. Yummy!



The assassin bug's beak makes it deadly.



This bug jumps on other insects.
It stabs them with its sharp beak.
It shoots out **poison** that turns their
insides to goo.
Then the bug sucks out the goo.
Slurp!

Bombardier beetle



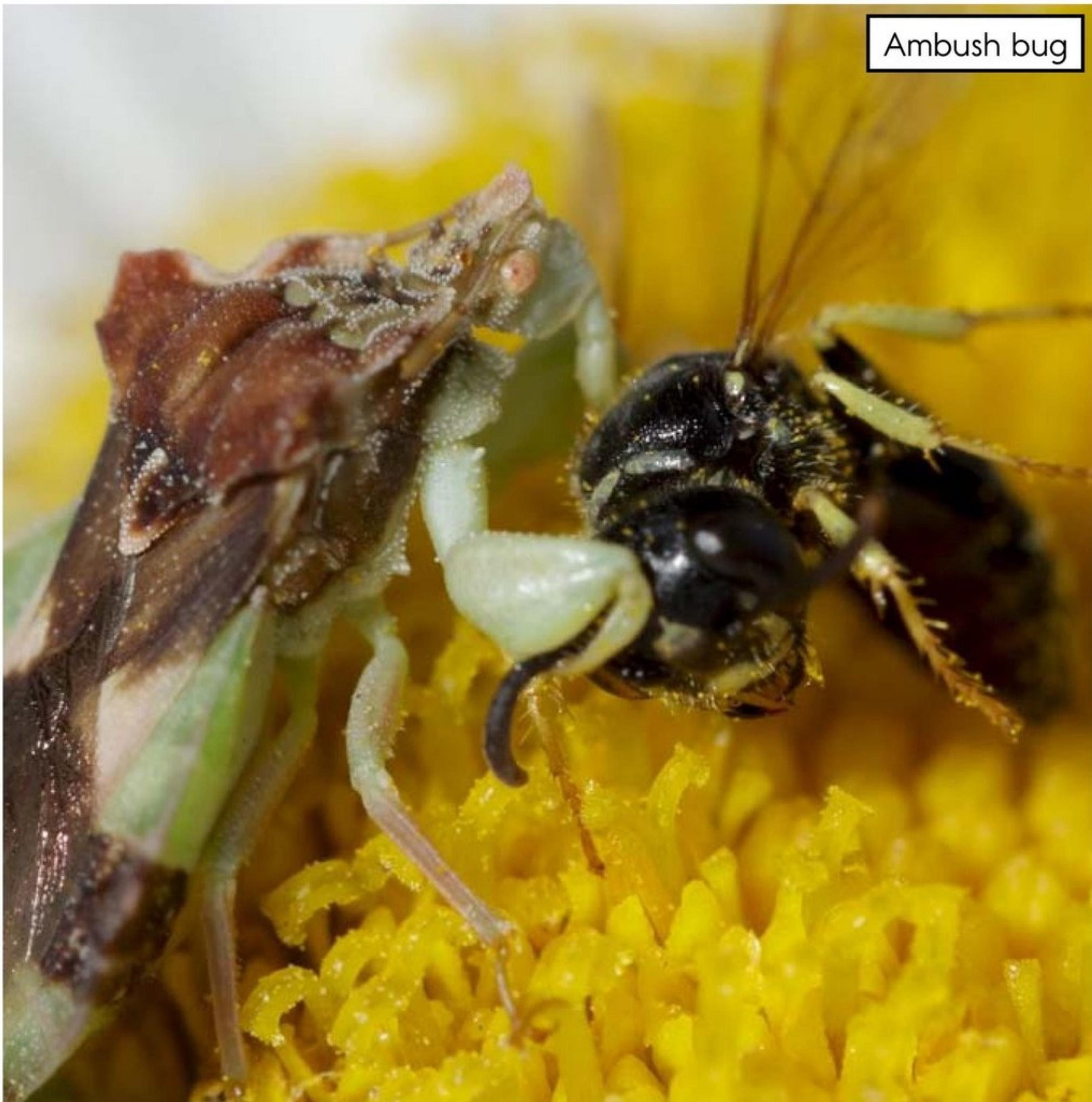
The bombardier beetle's spray keeps enemies away.



Watch out!

This beetle sprays out boiling hot poison when touched.

It stops animals from trying to eat it.



Ambush bug

Ambush bugs hide near flowers to catch their prey.

Conclusion



Insects have many ways to protect themselves.

Their size, color, and weapons can help them stay alive.

Glossary

caterpillar	the second stage of the life cycle of a butterfly or moth; the larva stage (p. 10)
extreme	great or much more than usual (p. 5)
poison	a substance that can kill animals or plants (p. 13)
protect	to keep something from being hurt (p. 6)
traits	qualities that make living things different from one another (p. 5)

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Front cover: Ambush bug

Back cover: Robber fly eating a meal

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