

for protection against predators, like in the case of some butterflies. Many species, such as the painted lady and the Monarch, have bright coloration on one side and dull or splotchy coloration on the other, Nancy Greig, director of the Cockrell Butterfly Center at the Houston Museum of Natural Science, told Weather.com. When they land and close their wings, they take on the size, shape and shades of a leaf. Other bugs are camouflaged to make capturing food easier, Greig said. Leaf mantises fall into this category. They are sit-and-wait predators, said the plant ecologist, who has studied insects for decades. They just sit there looking like a leaf until some insect that doesn't see them comes along. The mantis could be a brown, rotting leaf, like the dead leaf mantis, or a healthy vibrant one, like the green leaf mantis. Or it could look like a blossom. One we get sometimes is called the orchid mantis, which is white or pink, Greig added. If it's in a flower, you can't even see it. It's incredibly camouflaged. (MORE: The Most Painful Insect Stings) The technical name for