

Virtual Project Crystal

Field Guide to Insects



Argentine Ant

Size: Worker ants are 1.6–2.8 (0.06–0.11 in) millimetres long while queen ants are 4.2–6.4 millimetres (0.17–0.25 in) long

Coloration: Argentine ants coloration typically ranges from a light to dark brown.

Diet: Feed on honeydew, a sweet, sticky liquid than is produced by insects that suck on the sap of a plant. However, they are also constantly on the search for other sources of food and water.

Habitat: Generally nest in loose leaf litter or under small stones but can be found occupying abandoned nests of other ant species.



Behr's Metalmark

Size: Wingspan ranges between 14 – 18 mm (0.50 – 0.70 in)

Coloration: Dorsal wings contain orange, black-brown, and contain many white spots

Larval Foodplant: Buckwheat

Habitat: Seen anywhere in Orange County where its larval food plant can be found. When perched on flowers they will fan their wings.

Occurrence: March–November.



Bumble Bee

Size: Worker bumble bees can range from 10 – 16 mm (0.40 – 0.62 in) while queen bumble bees can range from 16 – 19 mm (0.62 – 0.74 in)

Coloration: Has alternating body segments of yellow and black.

Diet: Can feed on many plants including buckwheat, golden bushes, and sages.

Habitat: Can be found in dry chaparral areas in North America and in both agricultural or urban areas.



Ladybird Beetle

Size: Size of an adult can range between 4 – 7mm (0.15 – 0.27 in)

Coloration: The color of the forewing can range between a bright red and an orange and can have multiple black spots. They contain white lines on the segment behind the head.

Diet: In both the larval and the adult stage, ladybird beetles feed on aphids, insect eggs, and other soft bodied insects such as white flies, mites.

Habitat: Can be found in North America and Central America



Darkling Beetle

Size: Darkling beetles can range between 2.5 – 3.8 cm (1 – 1.5 in)

Coloration: The color of the beetle is completely black

Diet: Darkling beetles are scavengers and decomposers that eat decaying organic material such as dead leaves, rotting wood, or other dead organisms. They can also be seen eating live plants, fruits, or fungi.

Habitat: Parks and gardens in shaded areas that provide plant material that they can eat.



Harlequin Bug

Size: Size of an adult can range between 8 – 11.5 mm (0.3 – 0.45 in)

Coloration: The coloration on the bug includes black and with markings of yellow, orange, or bright red.

Diet: Harlequin bugs are herbivorous, feeding on the stems and leaves of plants. Are commonly found feasting on bladderpod or plants in the mustard family.

Habitat: Lives and feeds off of a host plant. Can be found in the southern half of the United States, Mexico, and some parts of Canada.



Pyramid Ant

Size: Size is typically around 3.2 mm (0.12 in)

Coloration: Pyramid ants range from a red to a reddish-black color

Diet: Feed on other insects and honeydew, a sweet, sticky liquid than is produced by insects that suck on the sap of a plant. They can sometimes be seen in houses in search of food and water.

Habitat: Typically build their nest in sunny areas where the soil is dry and sandy. Nests tend to have a single entrance hole.