

Minibeasts (creepy-crawlies)

Creepie-crawlies an wee saxleggit fleein craiturs

(Video suggestions: yaise tae link a craitur tae its habitat; luik at the wey it muives and mak a flick buik o fuitsteps or a video animation o fuitsteps; wi a bit o editin, tae pit its life cycle thegither.)

Some o thir names are gey regional. Wale oot the ane for yer ain airt or yaise the walth o variation tae mak the peynt that aw pairts o Scotland dinnae speak the same wey.

Until sic times as an entomologist gies us a reference buik in Scots, we'll need tae gie ye the English name for accurate identification. Gin yer cless kens o ony ither creepie- crawlle words, please ask them tae be a [wordsnowker](#) :

Ant emock, emmerteen, pismire.



Gresshopper played aw simmer lang,
Lowped aboot and strummed his sang.
Whan winter cam he sang nae mair;
His wame wis toom, his cupboard bare.

He gaed tae see the ant, whase store
Wis spillin ower wi treats galore.
Says 'Spare me just a bite eneuch.
I'm findin life a wee bit teuch.'

Says she, 'Whit did ye in thae days
Whan food wis free in parks and braes?'
I sang the newest sangs frae France.'
'Weel,' says the ant, 'Awa and dance!'
(Robinson efter Aesop and La Fontaine)

Bee It was aince the custom, whan ane o the faimlie deed, tae gang tae the skeps and whisper the bad news tae the bees. Then the bees were pit in mournin by tyin black ribbons tae the skeps. ([Bennet, M. 1992](#))

Q. Whit wey can ye tell the difference atween a honey bee and a wasp?

A. The bee's the beezer ane.

The wasp is bricht yella and bleck and the honey bee is mair a broonie-yella and bleck. The wasp has a richt nippit-in weyst. The honey bee has a narrow weyst but she's no just sic a skinnymalink.

Beetle Black beetles in general are clocks or clockers. A bum-clock is a humming beetle. The ladybird is a ledgy launners or a sodger. Dinnae step on a beetle or ye'll mak the rain come on.

Leddy, Leddy Landers, Leddy, Leddy Landers,
Tak yer cloak aboot yer heid

And flee awa tae Flanders.
Flee ower the firth and flee ower the fell;
Flee ower the pool and the rinnin well
Flee ower the moor and flea ower the mead;
Flee ower the livin; flee ower the deid;
Flee East; flee West;
Flee til him that loes me best.

(Trad.)



Bumble bee bumbee. A bumbees are different from honey bees because they hae a big roondit, furry abdomen. There's different kinds aw wi a different pattern o stripes on the abdomen. See hoo many yer cless can spot. Mak a record o the number o stripes and the colour o the stripes and the order the colours come in. Whit ane is the maist common? They're douce wee craiturs and dinnae sting unless they're gien an affae fleg.

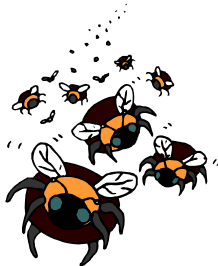
Bumbees

As I gaed down
The stackyaird dyke
I stuck a stick
In a bumbees' byke.

Sic a stishie
Sic a steer,
Sic a bizzin
Did I hear.

I got stang
Frae a big bumbee,
And Jings! that stang was sair.
Never will I
Herrie a byke
Gif I leeve for evermair.

J.K. Annand



Language pynts tae develop:

- a) Exclamations. Whit ither Scots anes can yer cless think o? Crivvens! Help ma boab! Michty me!
- b) Wha bides whaur? Wild bees and wasps bide in a byke. Honey bees bide in a skep. Coos bide in a byre. Ye bide in hoose. Squirrels bide in a drey. Badgers bide in a sett. A bawd (hare, maukin, bawtie) bides in a form. A rabbit bides in a burrae. Etc.

- c) Past tense of verbs.
- d) Alliteration *st-* and *b-*
- e) Effectiveness o repeatin grammatical structures when scribevin a poem: *Sic a*

Butterflee and **Caterpillar** Kinds o caterpillar include the kailworm (large white and sma white butterflee); hairy oobit, hairy worm, granny (wee hairy anes like the anes o the tortoiseshell butterflee); hairy grannie (big hairy anes like the tiger moth's).

The cabbage white caterpillars (kailworm) eat kail, and a wheen o ither gairden plants forby. The peacock butterflee is no that common on Scotland noo but ye micht see it amang clover or fruit trees. Its caterpillar eats jaggie nettles. The sma tortoiseshell oobit likes nettles as weel, as does the caterpillar o the red admiral. Awbody kens that butterflees like buddleia but yer gairden should hae a nettle patch for the butterflees as weel.



Centipede Jennie-hunder-feet, Jennie-mony-feet.

Sang: *The Wee Kirkcudbright Centipede* by Matt McGinn

Crane fly daddy-lang-legs, Jennie-lang-legs.

Whit wey can ye tell its no an attercap? Coont its legs. It has sax legs so it maun be an insect nae an arachnid.

Earwig clipshears, forkietailie, hornie gollach, gollacher

*The horny golloch is an awesome craitur,
Souple and scaly.
He has twa horns and a hantle o feet
And a forkie tailie.*

Flea flech, flae. Flechin means fidgettin like ye had flechs.

Fly flee.

*Ane, twa ,three,
Ma grannie couched a flea.
She sauted it and peppered it
And had it tae her tea.*

Ladybird see **Beetle**

Louse see Burns' *To a Louse*

Spider speeder, wabster, ettercap.

Spiders arenae insects. Insects hae sax legs but ettercaps and ticks hae echt.

Gin ye want tae live and thrive

Let a speeder rin alive.

Killin an ettercap maks it rain.

Hobbits wad recognise this name. See J.R.R. Tolkein, *The Hobbit*, chapter 8, 'Flies and Spiders':

Old fat spider spinning in a tree!

Old fat spider can't see me!

Attercop! Attercop!

Won't you stop,

Stop your spinning and look for me!

Linguistic pynt tae note: whaur English has *o*, Scots aften has *a* especially afore *p*, *b*, *m* or *f* as in *saft*, *Tam*, etc.