

Churchyard spotter – invertebrates



The tiny zebra jumping spider can leap 8x its own length to capture prey.



Tetragnatha lies in wait in its web to catch its insect prey.



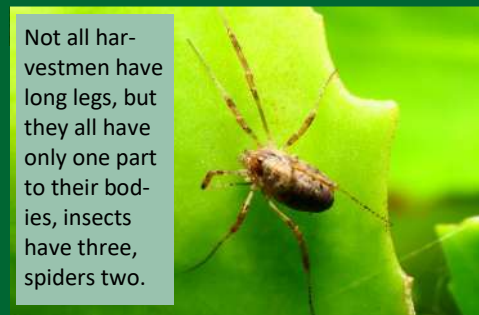
Misumena, sits motionless on a flower to ambush insects.



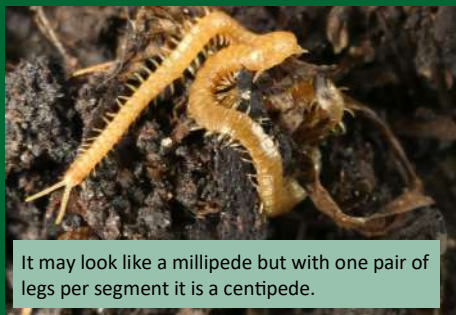
The nursery-web spider may often be seen out in the open waiting to catch a passing insect.



The long legs of the harvestman detect the slightest movement of vegetation, and act as an early warning of danger.



Not all harvestmen have long legs, but they all have only one part to their bodies, insects have three, spiders two.



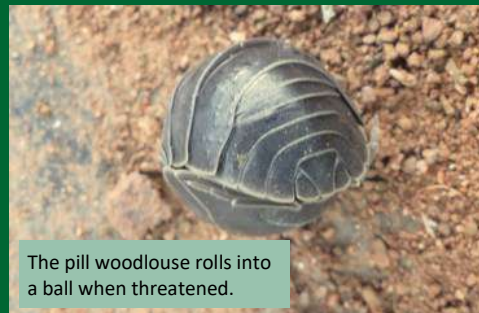
It may look like a millipede but with one pair of legs per segment it is a centipede.



Two pairs of legs for each segment = a millipede.



Common shiny woodlouse.



The pill woodlouse rolls into a ball when threatened.



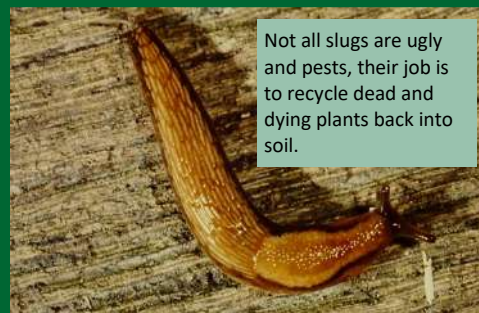
Lithobium, like all centipedes, is a voracious predator



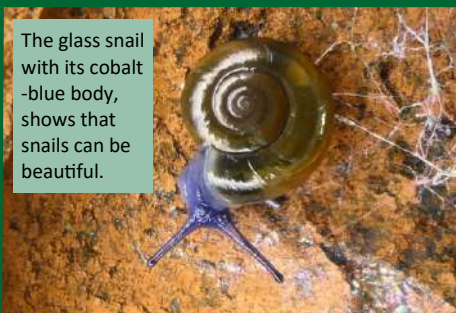
The land hopper is now widespread in Devon after being introduced in garden plants from Australia.



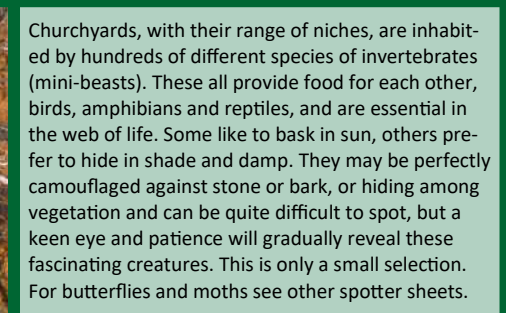
Snails come in many shapes and sizes, many are tiny and overlooked.



Not all slugs are ugly and pests, their job is to recycle dead and dying plants back into soil.



The glass snail with its cobalt-blue body, shows that snails can be beautiful.



Churchyards, with their range of niches, are inhabited by hundreds of different species of invertebrates (mini-beasts). These all provide food for each other, birds, amphibians and reptiles, and are essential in the web of life. Some like to bask in sun, others prefer to hide in shade and damp. They may be perfectly camouflaged against stone or bark, or hiding among vegetation and can be quite difficult to spot, but a keen eye and patience will gradually reveal these fascinating creatures. This is only a small selection. For butterflies and moths see other spotter sheets.



Ichneuman wasp—a parasite of caterpillars



Oil beetle lays its eggs in solitary bee burrows



Lesser stag beetle



Dark bush-cricket, often heard chirping at dusk



Pennant wasp—a cleptoparasite of bees



This Bird-dropping weevil has the perfect disguise.



The violet ground beetle is a fast-running predator.



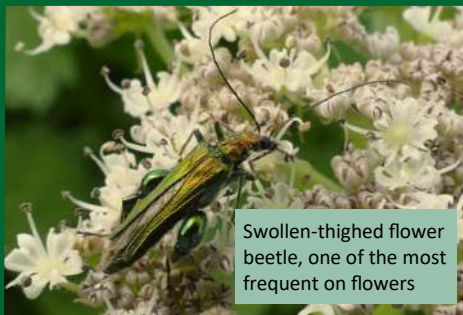
Grasshoppers thrive in long vegetation



The hornet is our largest wasp, but quite docile.



Despite its appearance, the Devil's coachhorse is a harmless beetle.



Swollen-thighed flower beetle, one of the most frequent on flowers



Oak bush-cricket, lives among oak branches.



Black ants tending their pupae (not eggs!).



Yellow meadow ants are very common in churchyards.



Most earwigs can fly, the tightly folded wings resemble a judge's wig.



Speckled bush-cricket.