



Identify 100 Species – Common Invertebrates

10 species you are likely to find in Leicestershire and Rutland

How easy is it to identify?

Easy



Care needed



Target species

Yellow Dung Fly – *Scathophaga stercoraria* ●

ID: Male is yellow and furry. Female (inset) is greener and less hairy. Adults are predators and breed in dung.

Similar species: None.

Where to look: Common around cow pats. March-Nov.

About: Males hang around cow pats hoping to mate with females looking to lay eggs. Adults are predators and hunt small insects.

Recording: Photo required.



Noon Fly – *Mesembrina meridiana* ●

ID: All black, bluebottle-sized, with golden wing bases, 'toe nails' and face bars.

Similar species: None.

Where to look: Sunning on fences and tree trunks. Late summer.

About: Eggs are laid in cow dung, the larvae are carnivorous, and feed on other fly larvae within the dung. The female lays up to five eggs in her lifetime, each in a different cow pat.

Recording: Photo required.



Dark-edged Bee-fly – *Bombylius major* ●

ID: Furry brown with very long proboscis. Front half of wings dark. Hovers, dropping eggs into bee nests.

Similar species: Other Bee-flies lack the dark wing pattern.

Where to look: Gardens, hedges. Spring.

About: Its Bee-fly larvae eat the larvae of bees and wasps in their nests.

Recording: Photo required.



Other common Leicestershire flies to check out:

Empis tessellata, *Chrysopilus cristatus*, Notch-horned Cleg, *Poecilobothrus nobilitatus*

Face Fly – *Musca autumnalis* ●

ID: 7-8mm. Males (illustrated) have an orange abdomen with a central dark stripe. Females have a grey mottled abdomen and look like many other flies.

Similar species: Males – none.

Where to look: Very common sunning, often in groups, on gates and fences.

About: This species gets its common name from its habit of landing on the faces of cattle where they feed on tears, sweat and blood (from the bites of other flies). However the adults also feed on nectar.

Recording: Photo required. The male (shown) is much easier to identify than the female so aim to photograph a male.



To find out more about the [100 Species Challenge](#), how to submit records of your sightings and lots more about the wildlife of Leicestershire and Rutland, visit www.naturespot.org.uk.

Fly – *Tachina fera* ●

ID: A very large (to 16mm) stocky fly with many bristles. The orange abdomen is divided by a thick black stripe.

Similar species: None.

Where to look: Flowers, particularly umbellifers such as Hogweed.

About: As with most other species in the Tachinidae family, its larvae are parasitic on caterpillars and other insects.

Recording: Photo required. Normally not too difficult to photograph when feeding on flowers.



Tiger Cranefly – *Nephrotoma flavescens* ●

ID: Craneflies have long thin bodies and even longer legs. This has a yellow abdomen with a thin, usually broken, black mid-line. The shape of the black mark on the back of the head is a key feature.

Similar species: Other yellow bodied craneflies have a different head shape.

Where to look: Grassy places. Comes to light. Apr-Aug.

About: The adults feed on nectar and pollen.

Recording: Photo required – showing head pattern.



Broad Centurian Soldierfly – *Chloromyia formosa*

ID: 9mm. Males (right) have a metallic green thorax and brassy abdomen (blue in the female – inset image). The eyes are covered in dense, black hairs.

Similar species: Sargus species lack hairy eyes.

Where to look: Sunning on leaves. Feeding on flowers.

About: Most soldierflies have bright colours and patterns. Many are named after military ranks, eg. Colonel, Major.

Recording: Photo required – wings apart if possible.



Dagger Fly – *Empis livida* ●

ID: Large, upright fly with long, red legs. The brown thorax has 3 dark stripes. Very long 'dagger' proboscis.

Similar species: Other dagger flies lack red legs and 3 thoracic stripes.

Where to look: Flowers, such as Hogweed.

About: It feeds on nectar as well as being a Predator of other insects.

Recording: Photo(s) required showing legs and stripes.



Thistle Gall-fly – *Urophora cardui* ●

ID: A small black fly with a striking wing pattern and a yellow scutellum. The gall is easier to find – a swelling on the stem of Creeping Thistle.

Similar species: None.

Where to look: Creeping Thistle.

About: Galls are abnormal plant growths, triggered by the Release of a chemical by the insect gall-causer. Larvae feed Inside the gall where they are well protected.

Recording: Photo required. State the plant species.



Holly Leaf-miner – *Phytomyza ilicis* ●

ID: The fly is small and inconspicuous but the leaf-mine caused by its larvae feeding with Holly leaves is easy to see. Pale blotch, often with a purple area.

Similar species: None on Holly.

Where to look: Holly leaves.

About: The larvae spend 11 months inside the leaf before hatching out in June.

Recording: Photo required of the leaf-mine. The fly itself is almost impossible to find!

