
JUNIOR NATURALISTS

Are you bugged?, or have you been pestered lately? Who would guess I'm talking about poor little insects - listen to the names we give them. Not all insects bug or pester us do they?

What about our dear friend the honey bee. How many of you besides me like honey? Have you marvelled at the brilliant wings of the delicate butterfly, or the flashy colors on some beetles, or those water striders that really do walk on water!

There's lots of fascinating little animals out there. Get out your detective glasses and head out in search of the neatest insect you can find. Have you found it? Write down a few things about it so you can remember it and be able to compare it to someone different the next day.
How does it move?
What does it eat?
What was it doing?
What color is it?

Maybe ants will catch your attention. They'll follow trails to find food. Some mark the trail with a special scent called a pheromone so they can find their way back to the nest, others find their way by using the sun or a landmark. Imagine being ant sized and having to navigate in the big world! Do you find their trails?

Once a couple of ants find food they try to drag it back to their colony. Other ants come to help, but often there seems to be a time of confusion, they pull, but in the wrong direction! Soon though, all ants are working together.

Keep a sharp eye on your insect, maybe it will do something that surprises you! I'd like to see your list of observations and why you think this insect is 'neat'. Observations are important, so send them to me and we'll

print them in the next Blue Jay! Keep a list for yourself of how many different insects you find over the summer.

A couple of great books to get are: *A Guide to Observing Insect Lives* by Donald W. Stokes and, the first issue of 'Nature Scope', a new magazine affiliated with 'Ranger Rick'. It is packed full of information and great activities. Each issue is a different topic. I'm excited to see them. Their address is **NatureScope, Dept. 177, National Wildlife Federation, 1412 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington D.C. 20036.** Heidi Sutherland, 901-2020 Bellevue Avenue, West Vancouver, British Columbia. V7V 1B8.



Green Lattice Moth

R.E. Gehlert