

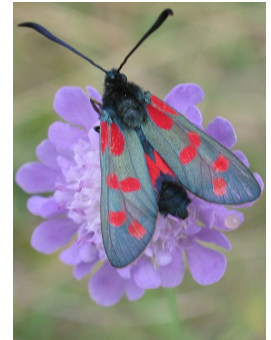


What to look for in July

In **July** the largest group of animals in the world, insects, are visible everywhere. Butterflies are easily spotted in gardens, meadows and woodlands. **Peacock butterflies** get their name from the 'peacock's eye' visible on their wings. They hibernate over the winter, emerging in the early spring before laying their eggs. Their caterpillars start to appear in July, often seen on

Peacock Butterfly

Common Nettle, their main food plant, which is also abundant at this time of year. Look out also for day-flying moths, such as the **Six-spot Burnet**, a very characteristic moth with black wings and red, yellow or white spots. It can often be seen alongside the **Burnet Companion**, identifiable from its orange-yellow hind wings.

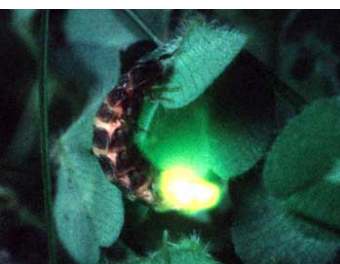


Above: Six Spot Burnet
Below: Burnet Companion

Also be on the look-out for **Stag Beetles**. These



insects are the largest beetle in the UK, and at this time of year they emerge as adults after spending up to seven years as larvae in rotting wood. As adults, the stag beetles live for just a few weeks, when they mate and the females lay their eggs. Because they spend such a long time as larvae, stag beetles are very vulnerable as their natural habitat declines. Suburban gardens offer an important alternative, and a large number of stag beetle records come from garden sightings. After dark, see if you can spot the cold, greenish light of adult female **Glow**



Above: Stage Beetle
Below: Glow Worm

Worms. They cannot fly, but climb to the top of grasses and turn up the tip of their abdomens to show the underside of the last abdominal segment which shines to attract winged males.