

*Harlequin Ladybird Pupa-*  
*Harmonia axyridis*

Nature As It Happens



September 30, 2018, 1:03 PM



Sept. 30, 1:06:12pm

I came upon this 'beetle' in the garden the other day and took its portrait. Google identified it as a Harlequin Ladybird (*Harmonia axyridis*) in the last of its five larva stages. While finding this unfamiliar bug was interesting, it is the next event that caught my attention: it *pupated - from larva to pupa*. The full cycle is illustrated on page 12. (The flying version of this insect is known as both Ladybird and Ladybug.)



"Harlequin ladybird pupae are 'exposed', meaning that the entire larval skin is shed during pupation, rather than the ladybird pupating within it or only half shedding it. The cast-off larval skin remains attached to the rear of the pupa, at the point where the pupa attaches to a substrate while it develops (3) (5)" <https://www.arkive.org/harlequin-ladybird/harmonia-axyridis/image-G142411.html>

The end game in this cyclic process is the Ladybird/bug on the left - photographed about a foot from the pupa above.  
The full story is here:  
<https://www.aboutanimals.com/insect/harlequin-ladybird/#Description>

For the blow-by-blow account, continue on Page 3.



The process began as a small white blob oozing out of its topside. The shots of the initial stages were blurred, but with further maneuvering, I got some good photss.

(The leaf, byw, is a *Brunnera Mac. 'Sea Heart'*.)

Time: 1:17:06 PM

(The green line is the same size and position in each photo and provides a framework by which to judge the size of the emerging larva.)



1:18:36 PM

In a brief spurt, the pupa's growth rate increased and began to slowly wobble up and down.



1:18:48 PM



1:18:52 PM



1:19:00 PM



1:19:54 PM

1:20:26 PM  
Down ...



1:23:18 PM  
... down ...



1:26:28 PM  
... up!



1:27:56 PM Down again ...



... up again 1:30:26 PM



2:04:48 PM



2:06:36 PM



2:07:30 PM



2:14:00 PM



2:55:46 PM



2:58:30 PM



3:06:02 PM



3:06:42 PM



3:16:32 PM



4:00:36 PM



6:00:58 PM

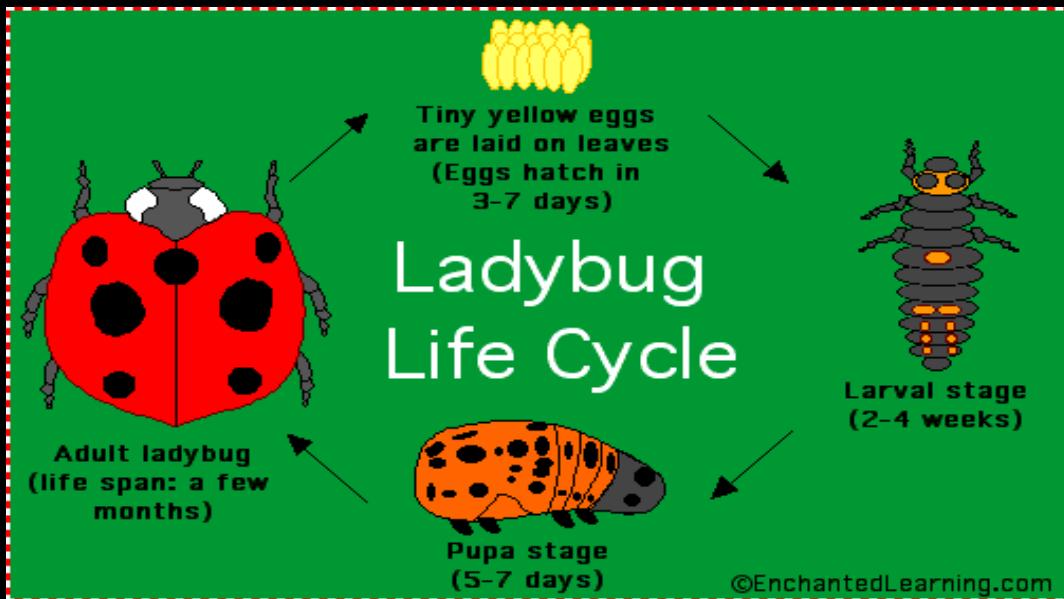


6:08:00 PM

As darkness fell, Jill came out with a lantern. While it was still there at 9:30 pm, by morning, the new pupa had set out in search of aphids. It has a voracious appetite consuming dozens of aphids per day.

Ladybug/bird life cycle:

1. During her life, she lays between 1,000 & 2,000 eggs.
2. Four to five days later, the eggs hatch into larvae.
3. A larva takes ~21 days to develop, during which time, she sheds her skins four times.
4. Each pupal stage lasts about one week.



([http://www.greenville.k12.ny.us/elem;brady\\_s/ladybugs/lifecycle.htm](http://www.greenville.k12.ny.us/elem;brady_s/ladybugs/lifecycle.htm))