



Wee Creatures
No. 2

J. G. Porter



Yellow Dung Fly (*Scathophaga stercoraria*)

As its name suggests, this richly coloured insect is often found on the feces of mammals such as horses, cows, sheep, and deer. The flies visit these places to eat, meet, and mate - the fly version of our local cafe.

The Yellow (aka Golden) Dung Fly eats other insects, such as Blowflies, that visit dung pats.

This fellow flew in one day in late May, and despite the dearth of dung in our front garden, stayed long enough to be photographed.

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2018 J. G. Porter*

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Lesser Dung Fly

(Sphaerocerid Fly)

A member of the family of true flies. This fellow is dining on what appears to be a Greenbottle fly.

Because it lives on dead or decayed organic matter, the Dung fly is also called the Lesser Corpse Fly.

On a lovely white peony in a friend's garden.

Ant dragging a discarded keratin carapace

Apparently, ants chew the keratin protein into a mixture which they then feed to their larvae.





Bush Katydid (*Scudderia sp.*)

*The Katydid is more closely related to crickets than to the Grasshopper,
the insect it more closely resembles.*

*On a Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*) in our front garden.*



Eastern Yellow Jacket Wasp (*Vespula maculifrons*)

*This wasp is armed with a stinger with which it protects the colony.
In my sister's garden.*



Blue Damselfly (*Enallagma cyathigerum*)

Damselfly eggs hatch in water as nymphs that feed on insects, tadpoles, and fish. The nymphs climb onto suitable stems, moult into adult damselflies which then set out in search of lunch - mayflies, butterflies, moths, bees, and bugs - and a mate.

Britannia Meadow.



Antelope Beetle, *Dorcus parallelus* (Lucanidae)

Never having encountered this creature before, I was a bit taken aback by its formidable appearance and its size ~1" long. It belongs to the Superfamily of Scarab beetles and is related to the European Lesser Stag Beetle.

Neighbourhood garden.



Syrphid Flies (*Syrphidae Diptera*)
doing what comes naturally on a
Blue Chicory (*Cichorium intybus*)
Pinecrest Creek Pathway, Ottawa.



Crab Spider female (*Misumena vatia*)
The Crab Spider ambushes insects that venture too close to its formidable front legs
and its poisonous bite. Here, she has captured, and immobilized, a larger
Greenbottle Fly. To escape my looming camera, she demonstrated her muscularity
by lifting the hapless fly and scurrying to a more secluded spot on the under-side of
the blossom.
In a neighbourhood garden.



Organ-pipe Mud Dauber

Wasp (*Trypoxylon politum*)

The wasp is so-named because their nests resemble organ pipes (below). In our front garden.



(https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/7b/Organ_Pipe_Wasp_nest.jpg)

European Skipper Butterfly

(*thymelicus lineola*)

Introduced inadvertently into North America about a century ago, this little butterfly has since thrived.

Pinecrest Creek Pathway in Ottawa's west end.





White-marked Tussock Moth Caterpillar (*Orgyia leucostigma*)
Contact with the poisonous hairs or spines of this caterpillar can cause skin rashes or even, in some cases, a hypersensitivity reaction.
On a neighbour's lawn

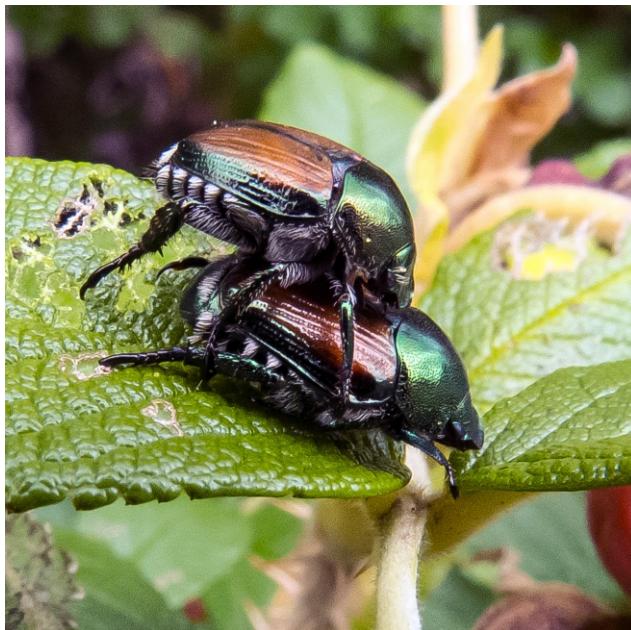


Cabbage White Butterfly (*Pieris rapae*)
The 'small white' is widespread across Europe, Asia, North America, Australia and New Zealand.
On a Garlic Chive in our front garden.



Japanese Beetle (*Popillia japonica*)

The Japanese Beetle, with its iridescent copper-coloured backside and green thorax and head, is quite visible. On its home turf in Japan, it is kept in check by a number of natural predators. In North America, it has fewer enemies and is gorging itself at its leisure.



At any given time, a substantial portion of these beetles is engaged in manufacturing the next generation.

In someone else's garden.



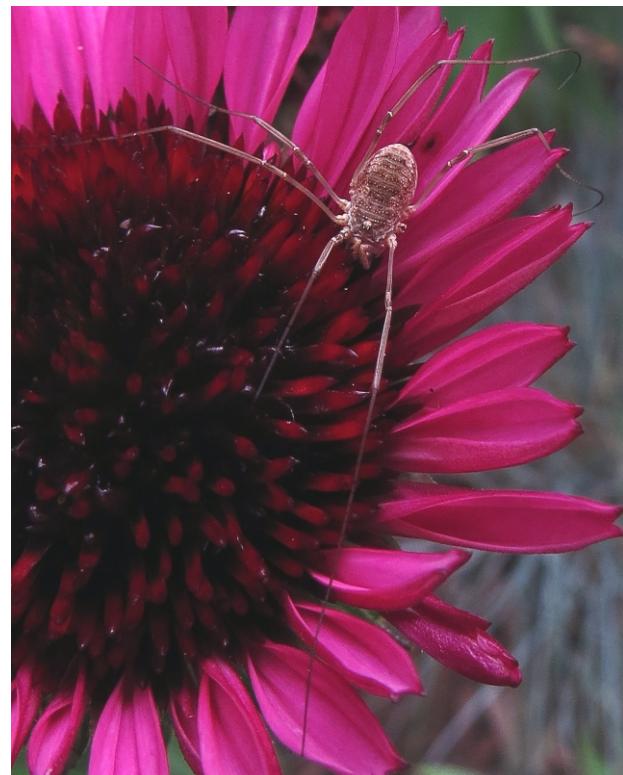
Daddy Longlegs Harvestmen

(*Phalangium opilio*)

Although the 'Daddy Longlegs' resembles a spider and belongs to the Arachnids, it belongs to Order Opiliones along with scorpions and solpugids.

Despite his long spindly legs, it is quite nimble. And contrary to popular belief, these creatures are not venomous.

In our front garden.



Daddy Longlegs Harvestmen

(*Phalangium opilio*)

This fellow is missing two left legs, a circumstance that didn't seem to diminish its ability to skilfully manoeuvre over leaves, stems, and flowers.

In a neighbour's garden.