

Seven-spot Ladybird

By Jennifer Care

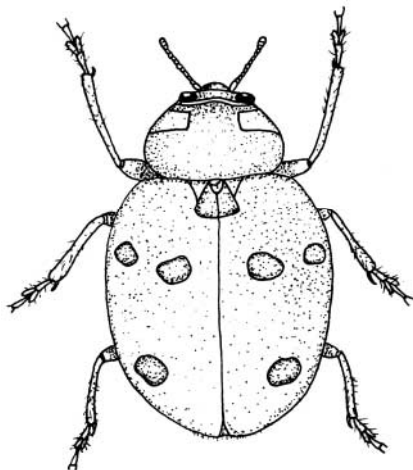
Scientific Name: *Coccinella septempunctata*

Irish Name: Bóin Dé sheachtbhallach

Ladybirds are flying beetles and are very beneficial to humans because they feed on the greenfly that eat the plants we grow. They hibernate during the winter under bark or stones and come out again in the spring when it gets sunny. There are different types of ladybird - some with only two spots and others with as many as 22 spots.



I'm a type
of beetle!



COLOUR ME



Eggs

Gilles San Martin CC BY-SA



Larva

Alvesgaspar CC BY-SA 3.0



Pupa

Gilles San Martin CC BY-SA 2.0



Adult

Orange-aurochs CC BY 2.0

FACT FILE:

Lives: Almost anywhere there are aphids for it to eat. Aphids are small insects that feed on the sap of plants e.g. greenfly.

Size: Adults are 5-8 mm long.

Eats: Both larvae and adults eat aphids.

Behaviour: Adults hibernate during winter and can be found in cracks and crevices, often in outbuildings and around window frames. Insect hibernation is called 'diapause'.

Adults live for 1 to 2 years in the wild.

The bright colours of ladybirds warn predators that they don't taste good. If threatened they can also secrete a fluid from joints in their legs which gives them a foul taste.

You can record your sightings of ladybirds as part of a national survey at: www.biology.ie