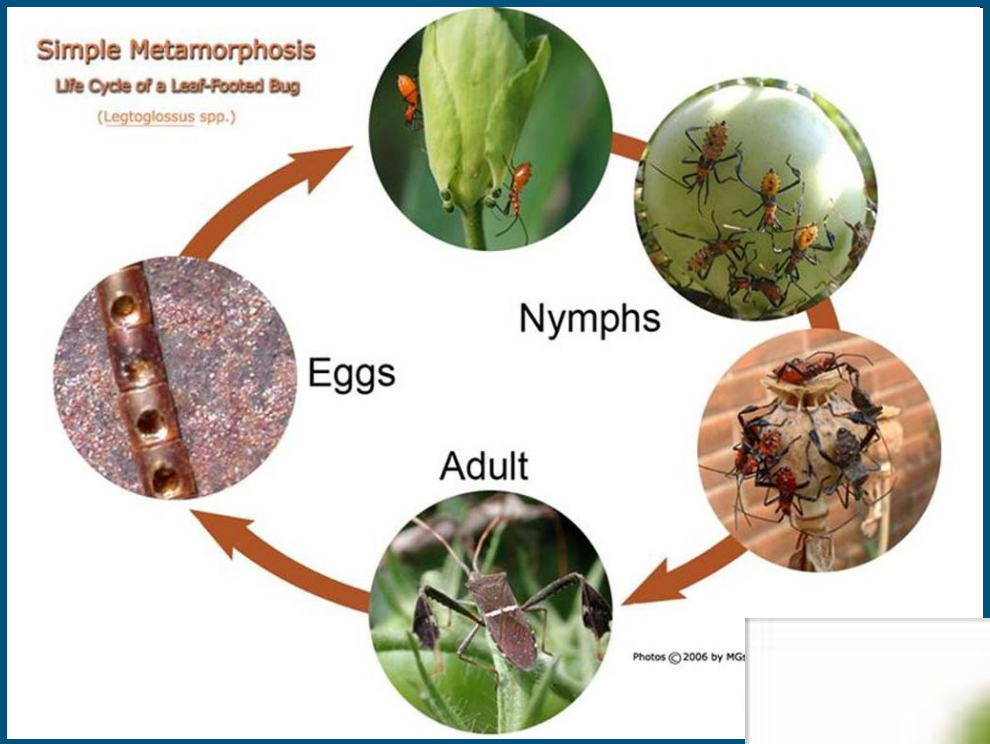
Insect Adaptations

What is an adaptation?

Some adaptations help insects:

- Hide
- Protect themselves
- Eat different foods
- Move (ex. run, jump, fly)

Growth Adaptations: Different Life Cycles



Incomplete or simple

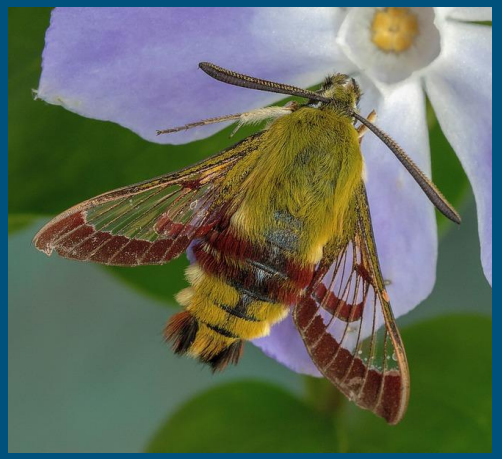
Complete

Protective Adaptations

- Wide range of ways to hid from potential predators or prey

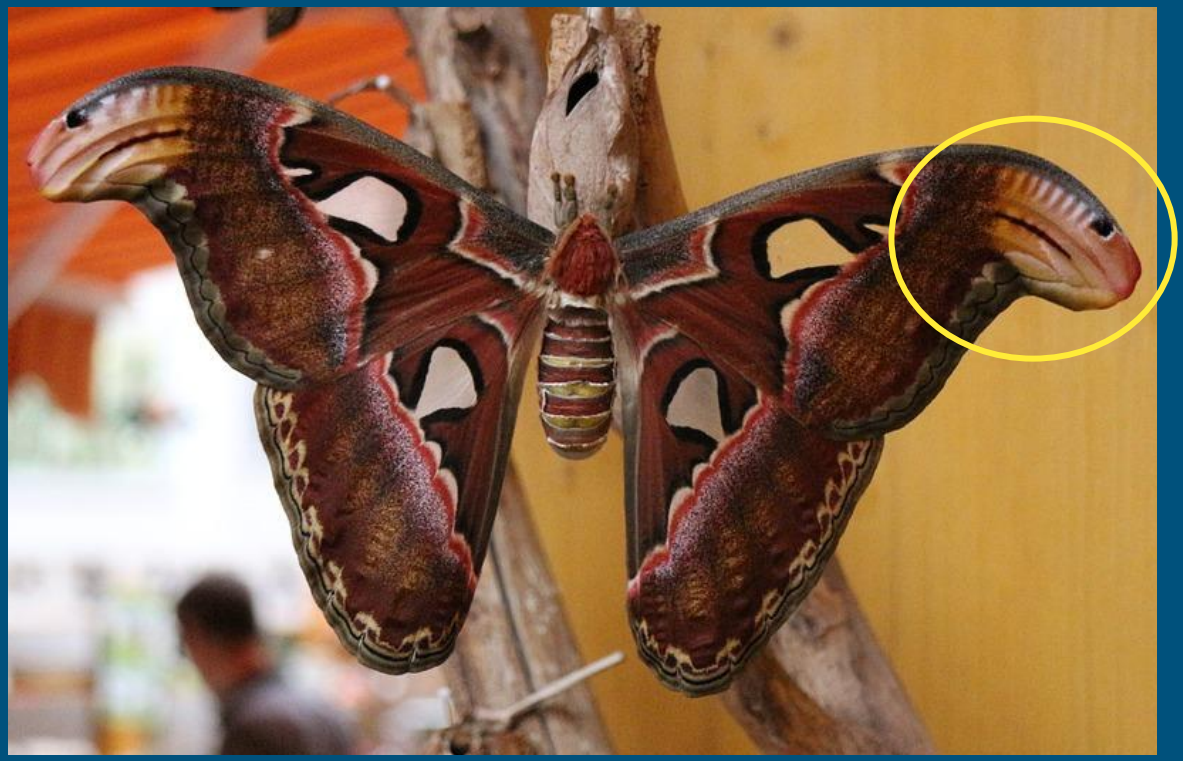
- Camouflage – hiding in plain view; can involve color, shape, behavior to blend into environment (crypsis)

- Mimicry – hiding by looking like something else inedible

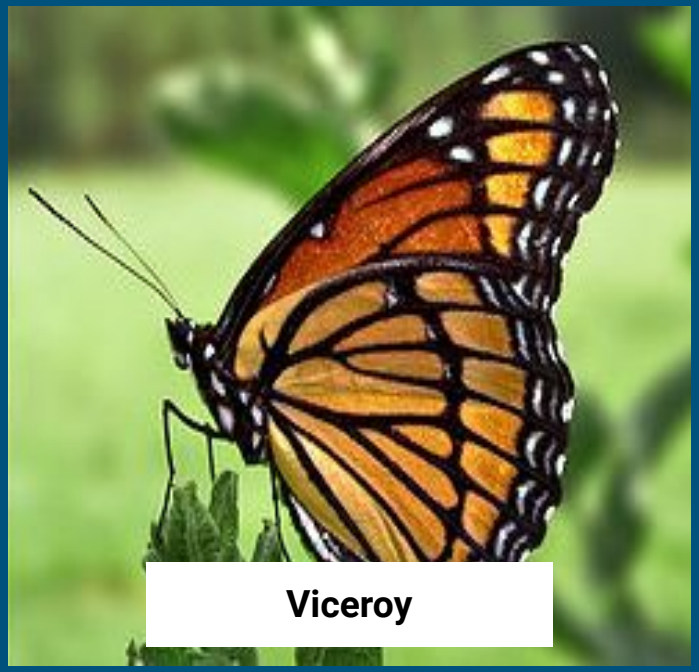


Protective adaptations: camouflage

Protective adaptations: mimicry



Monarch



Viceroy

Bumble Bee

Blowfly

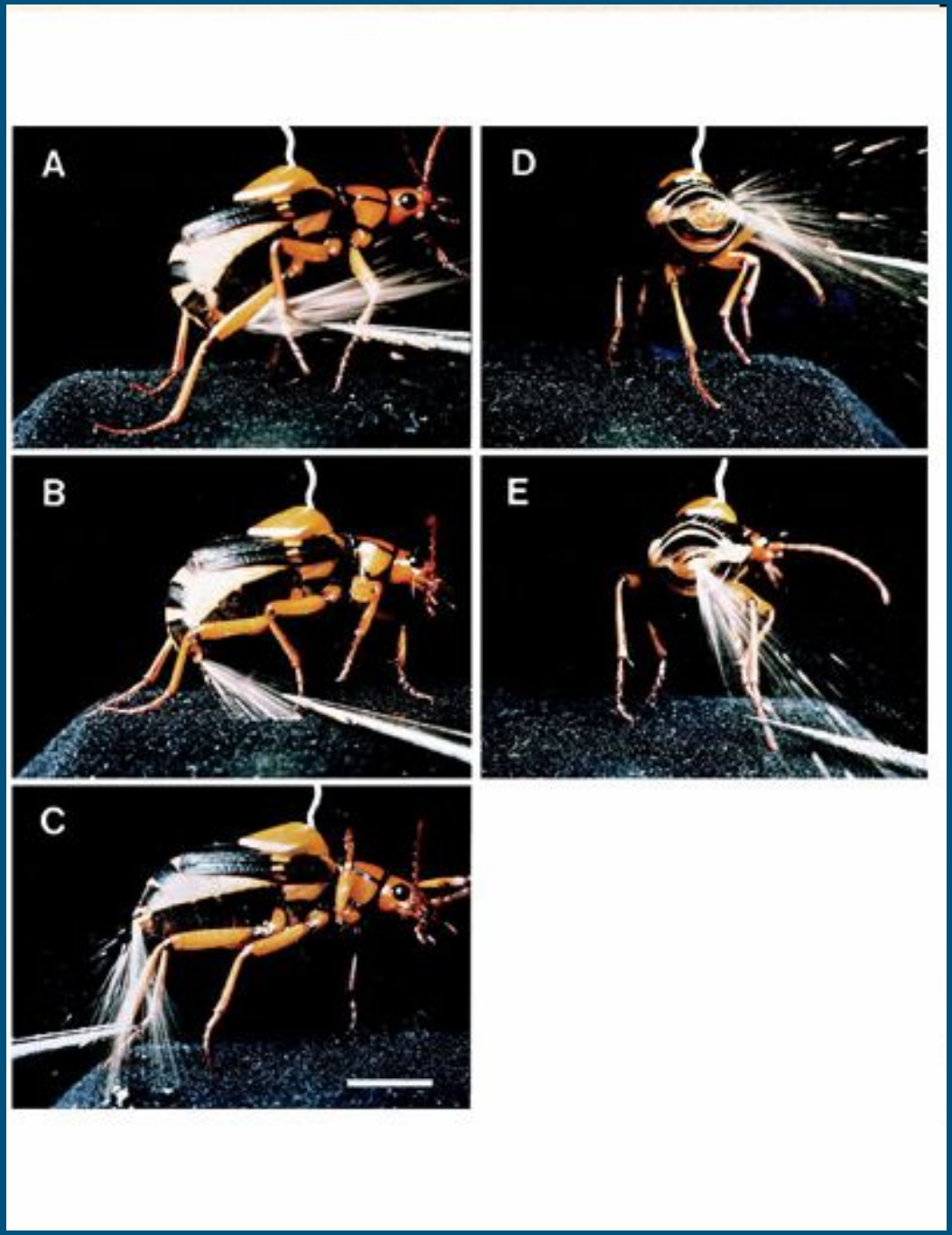
Chemical protection

- Don’t taste good because of the food they eat (Monarch caterpillar)

- Spray bad smelling or tasting chemicals (swallowtail caterpillar and bombardier beetle)

Chemical protection cont.

Bombardier beetle



Lifestyle adaptations

Ecological niches of insects:

- Plant eaters
- Pollinators
- Predators
- Bioindicators

Herbivores

- Feed on plants
  - leaves or juices

Pollinators

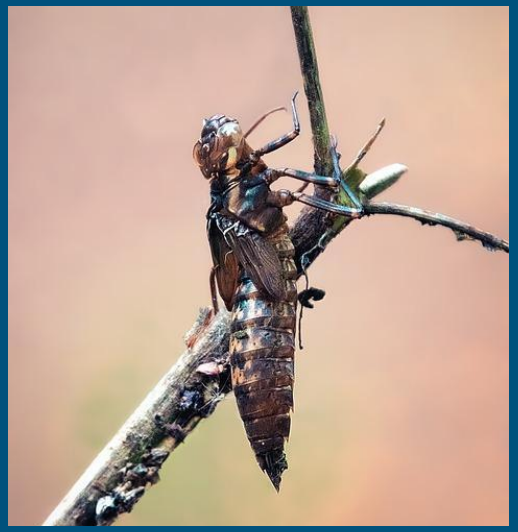







Predators

Bioindicators



Aquatic insect communities are often used as bioindicators of our environment

Adaptations Activity

- Leg parts
- Mouthparts
- Wings
- Morphology & Coloration

In groups, work out which types of body parts these insects have and what it’s function?