

BACKYARD

You don't have to fly halfway around the world to go on safari! The wild and wacky creatures on these pages can all be spotted in your own garden...

SAFARI!

Photographer **Jay Dykes** got up close to these cool mini-beasts in his tiny **urban garden** in Salisbury, Wiltshire! More than 24,000 types of insect live in the UK and Ireland — and they can be found in almost every habitat you can think of. So head outside, quick, and make a note of the bugs you find. How many of these critters will you spot?!

Spring and summer are the best times of year for insect spotting.



HOUSEFLY

The blob dangling from this buzzing beast's mouth is *spit*! **Houseflies** can't bite, so they salivate onto solid food. This helps turn it into liquid, which they then suck up with their sponge-like mouth parts. Mmm, tasty!

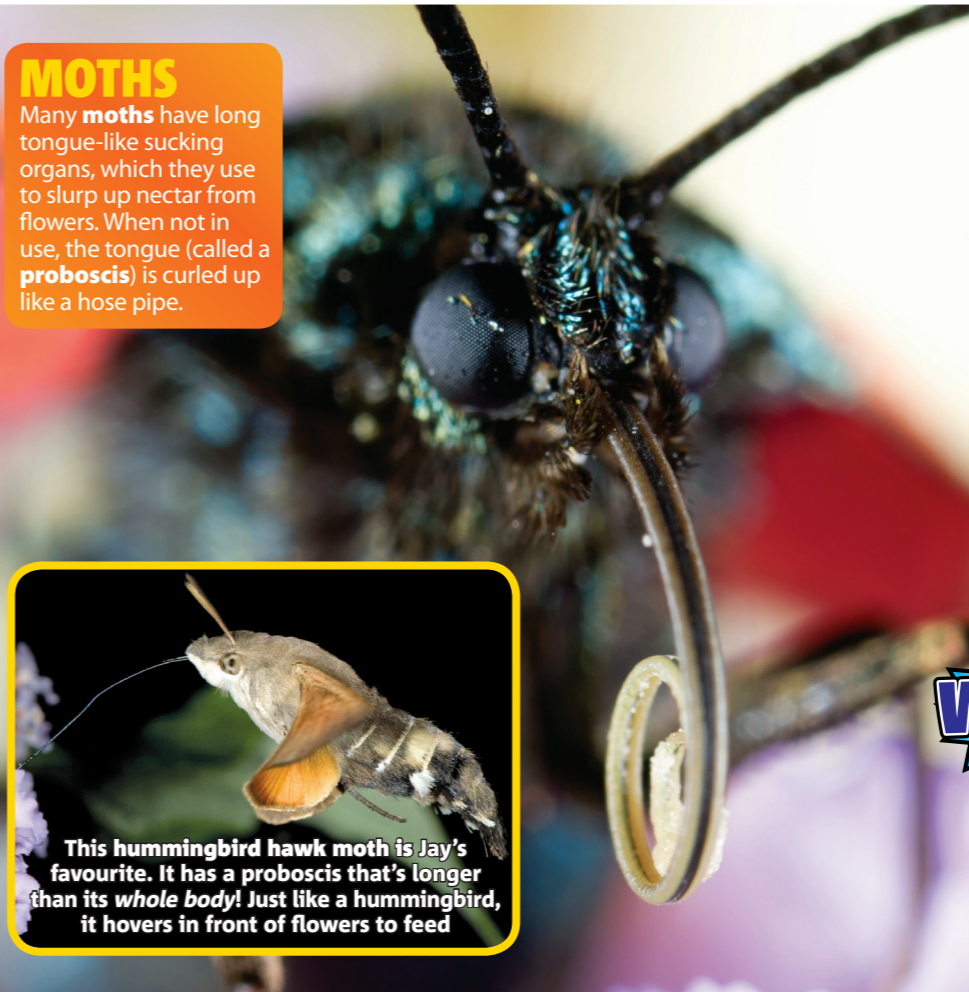
GARDEN ANT

It's not just flying insects that feast on flowers. "These **garden ants** are stocking up on dandelion pollen," explains Jay. "They also love sweet, sugary things." Yum!



MOTHS

Many **moths** have long tongue-like sucking organs, which they use to slurp up nectar from flowers. When not in use, the tongue (called a **proboscis**) is curled up like a hose pipe.



This hummingbird hawk moth is Jay's favourite. It has a proboscis that's longer than its *whole body*! Just like a hummingbird, it hovers in front of flowers to feed

WEEVILS

Weevils are beetles with long plant-juice-sucking snouts called **rostrums**. Amazingly, there are more types of weevils in the UK than all the birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians combined. Wow!



WHAT'S THAT BUG?

Can you work out what these close-ups are of? Match each picture to the name of an insect. Answers below.

A SHIELD BUG

B GREENBOTTLE FLY

C DRAGONFLY



WIN! BUG BOOKS!

Jay wants to encourage you to head out into your garden or local park and see what insects YOU can discover. Send us a drawing of an insect you've seen and include notes on your picture about where and when you found it, and what species you think it is. Our five faves will scoop a brilliant **Bugopedia** book along with a **bug goody bag**! Enter on page 55!

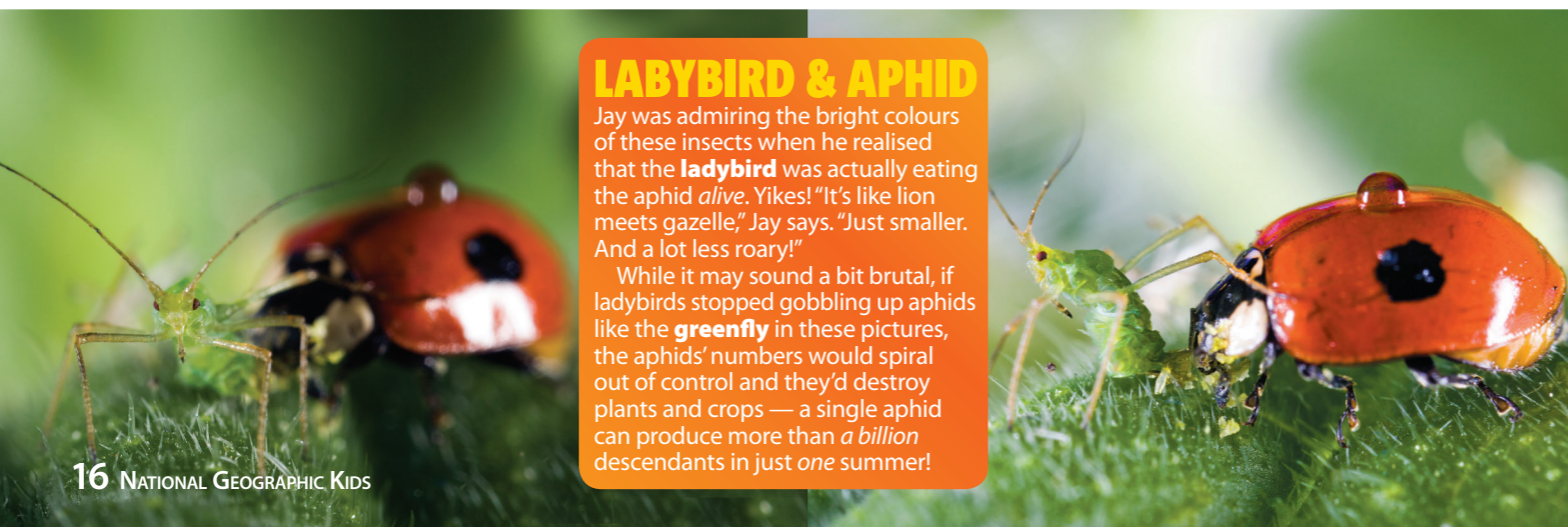


Head to page 55 to find out how to make a brilliant bug catcher and to read tips on where you can find bugs!

LADYBIRD & APHID

Jay was admiring the bright colours of these insects when he realised that the **ladybird** was actually eating the aphid *alive*. Yikes! "It's like lion meets gazelle," Jay says. "Just smaller. And a lot less roary!"

While it may sound a bit brutal, if ladybirds stopped gobbling up aphids like the **greenfly** in these pictures, the aphids' numbers would spiral out of control and they'd destroy plants and crops — a single aphid can produce more than a *billion* descendants in just *one* summer!



GREEN SHIELD BUG

Like their name suggests, these plant-sucking bugs look like walking armour! They're also known as **stink bugs** because of the nasty smell they release when disturbed.

Before they become adults, these bugs go through five different stages, shedding their external skeleton and emerging in a different shape and shade each time. Cool!

