



Bugs! Bugs! Bugs!



JENNIFER DUSSLING



READERS

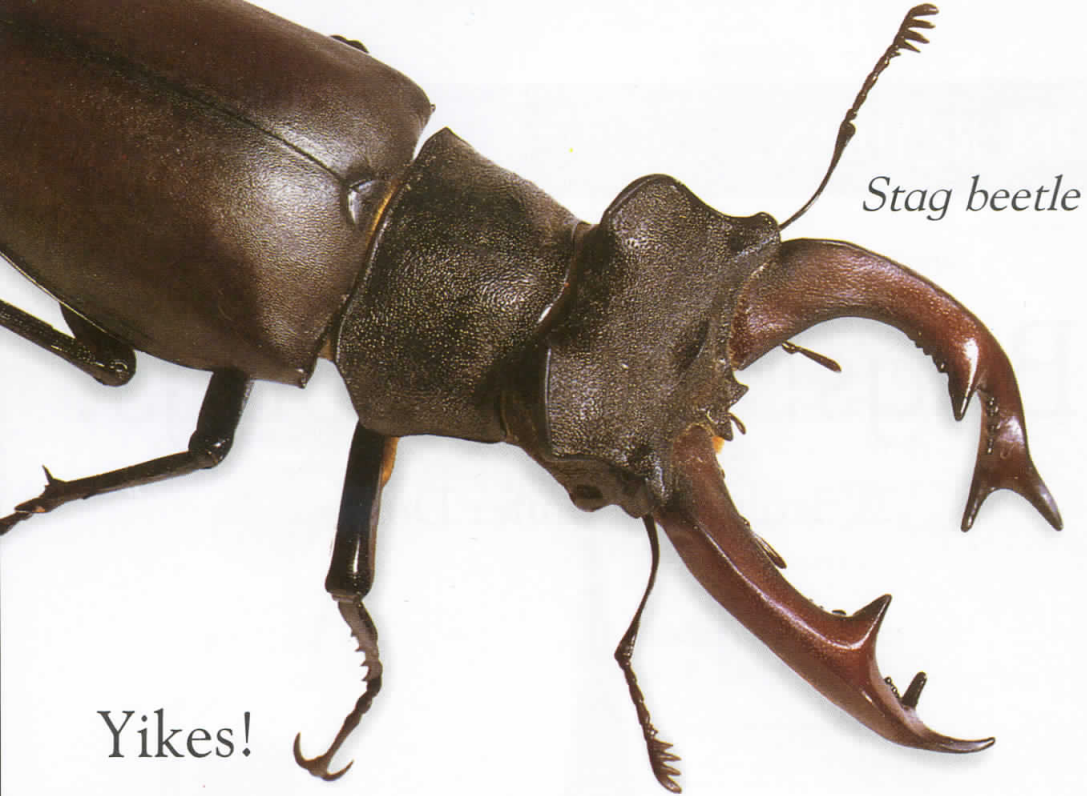


Bugs! Bugs! Bugs!

Written by Jennifer Dussling



DK Publishing, Inc.



Stag beetle

Yikes!

Bugs look scary close up.

But you don't need to worry.



Dragonfly

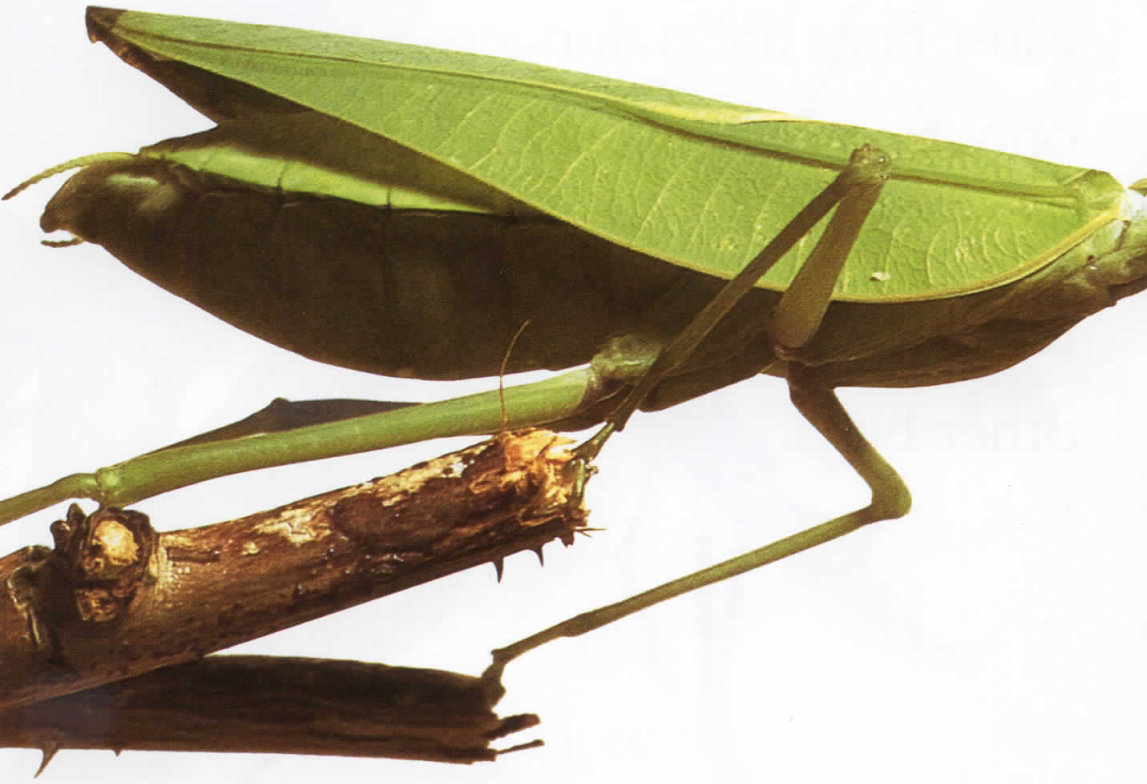
Most bugs are a danger
only to other insects.
They are the bugs
that really bug
other bugs.



*Praying
mantis*

*Beetle-
hunting
wasp*



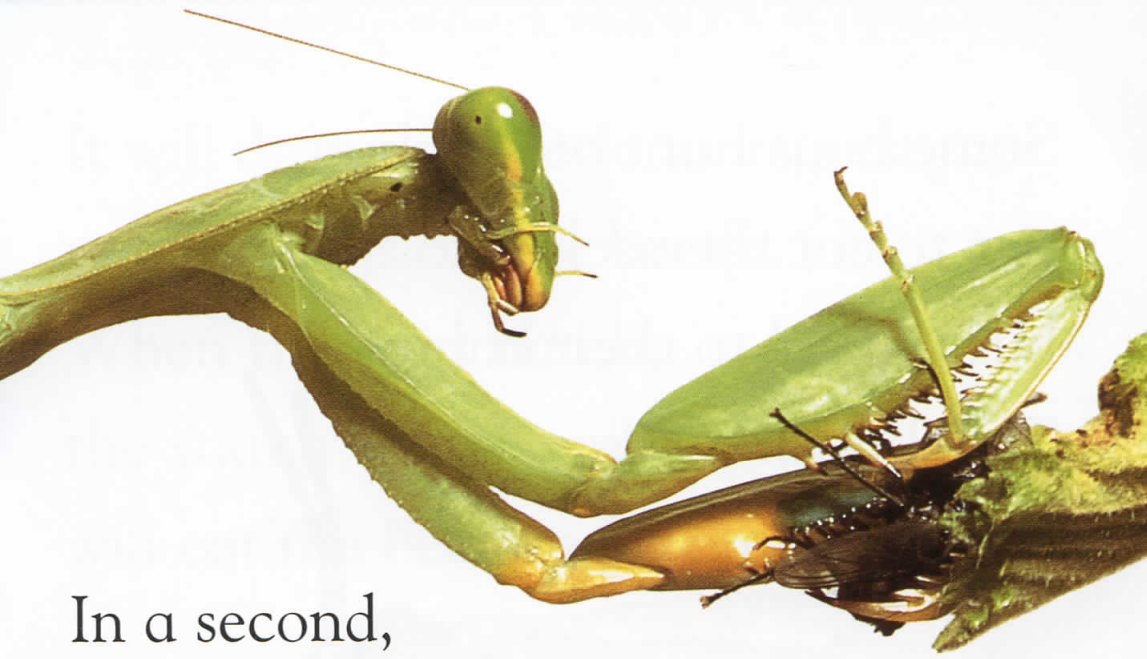


This praying mantis
sits perfectly still.

But if you are a bug,
watch out!

A fly lands on a branch
near a praying mantis.

The mantis fixes its
big eyes on the fly.



In a second,
the mantis lashes out.
Its front legs trap the fly.
They pull it to the mantis's mouth.
Munch, crunch –
soon the fly is gone!



Some bugs hunt other bugs,
not to eat themselves,
but to feed to their babies.
This hunting wasp
has just stung a beetle.



It will drag the beetle to its nest
and lay eggs on the beetle.

When the eggs hatch,
the young wasps, called grubs,
will eat the beetle up.



Hairy food

One kind of wasp
catches huge spiders
for its grubs.

It sometimes takes over
the spider's home, too!



Wood ants are tiny.

But they have sharp jaws
and they can squirt acid
from their bodies.

This acid can kill
another bug.

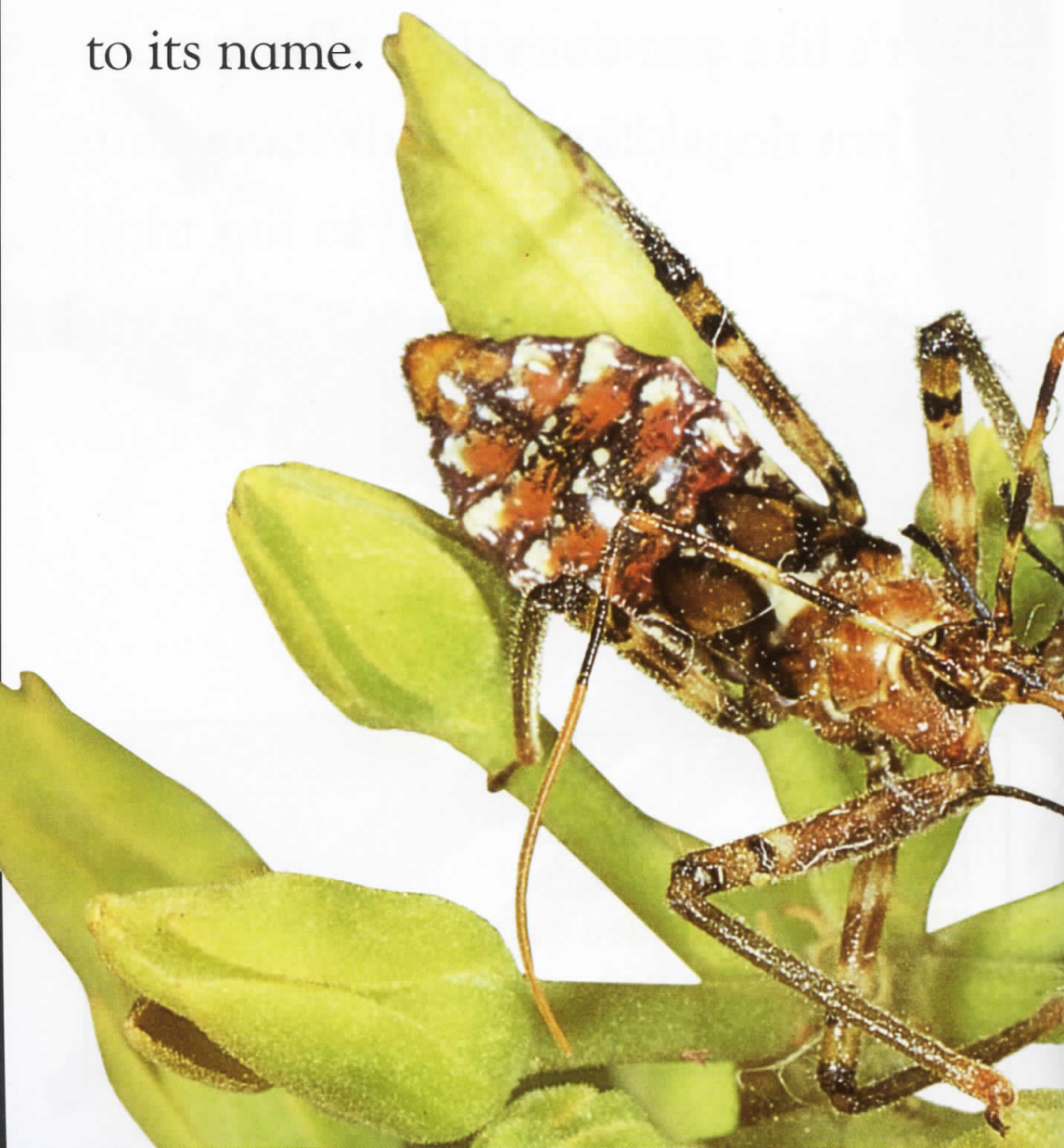


These wood ants
have found a dead bug.
Together the swarming ants
will tear the bug to pieces
and carry it back to their nest.



An assassin is a person who kills another person on purpose.

The assassin bug is a bug that really lives up to its name.



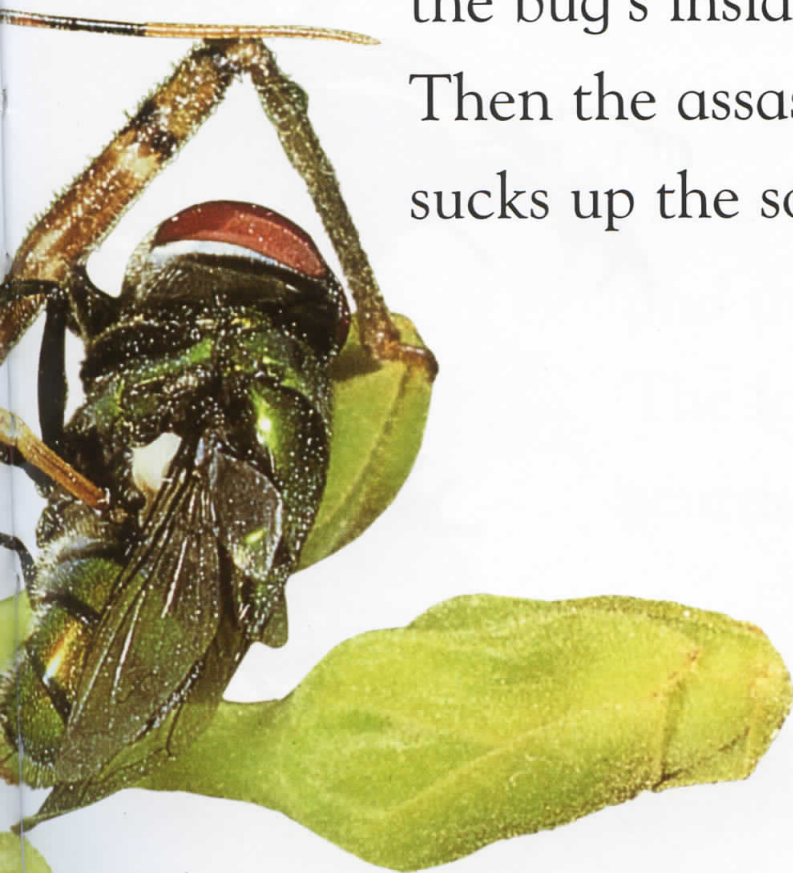
Kissing bugs

Some assassin bugs are called kissing bugs. That's because they often bite people on the face.



When it catches another insect, it injects the insect with poison.

The poison turns the bug's insides to soup. Then the assassin bug sucks up the soup!



Only one bug
has to watch out for
a male stag beetle –
another male stag beetle!
What do they fight about?
Usually a female
stag beetle!



Short, sharp jaws

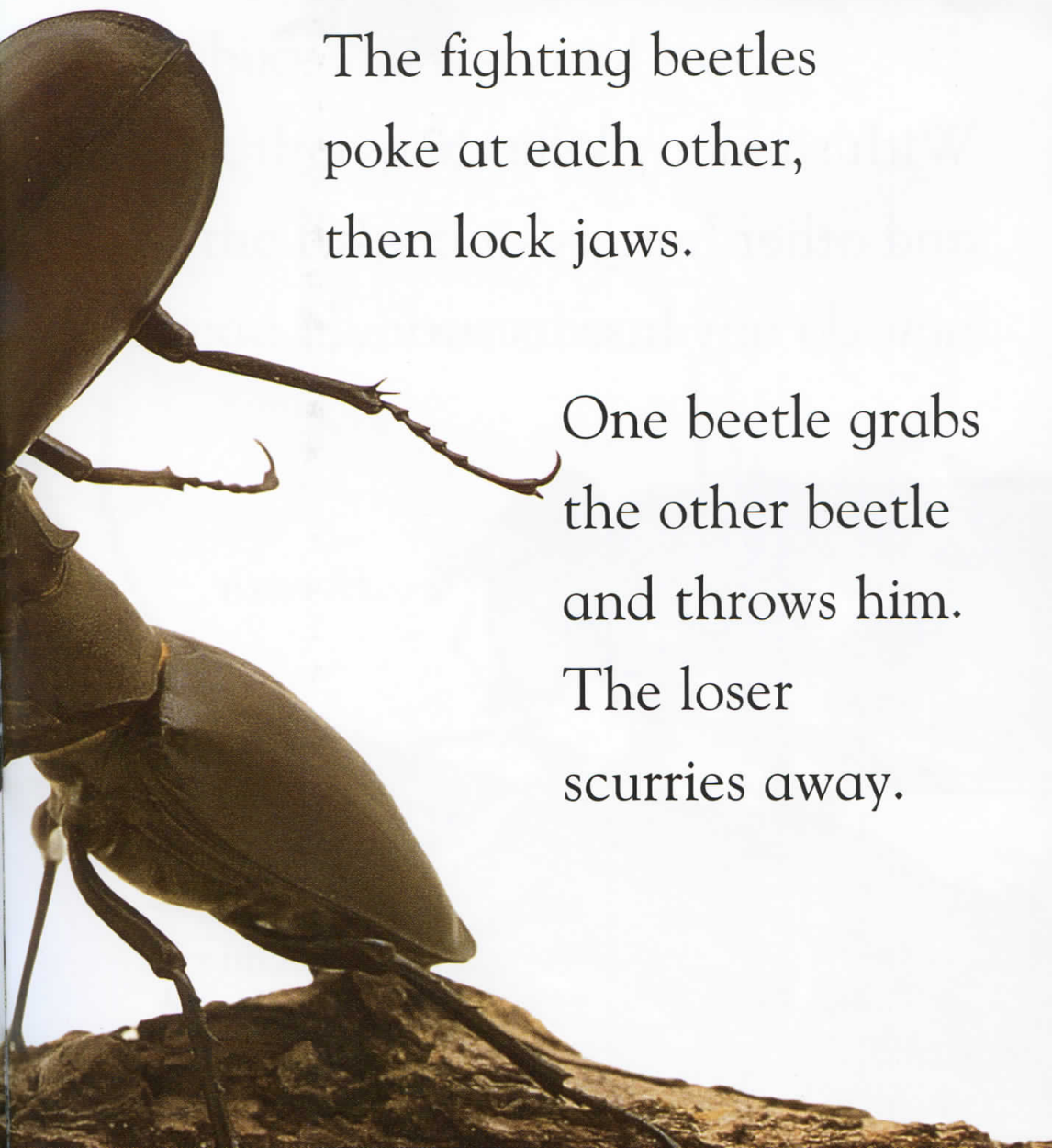
A female stag beetle has smaller jaws than a male.

But she can give a much sharper bite.



The fighting beetles
poke at each other,
then lock jaws.

One beetle grabs
the other beetle
and throws him.
The loser
scurries away.





*Monarch
butterfly
caterpillar*

With so many killer bugs
and other hungry animals,
how do any insects survive?



Hoverfly

Click beetle



Some bugs have special ways
to trick their enemies.

Turn the page
and read all about them!

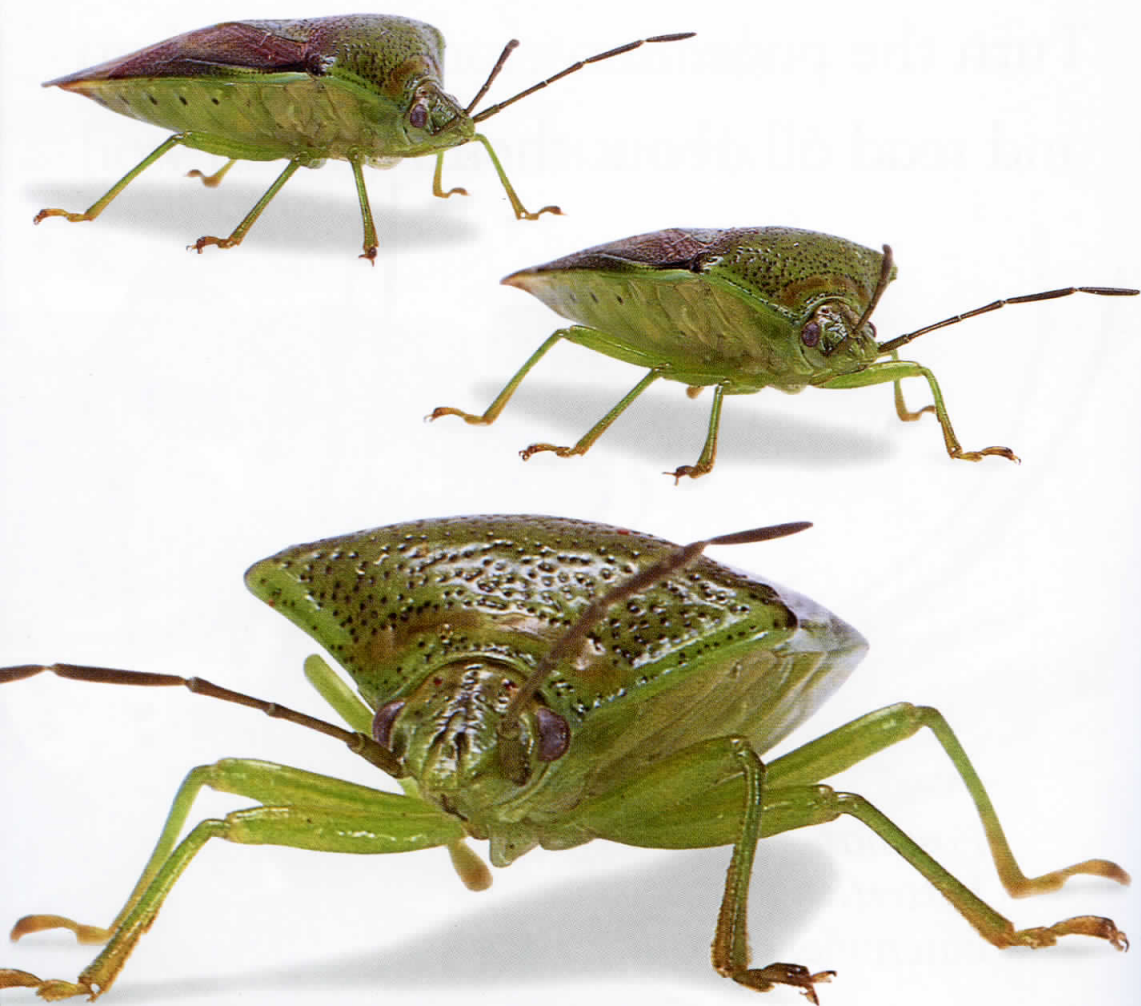
*Postman
butterfly
caterpillar*

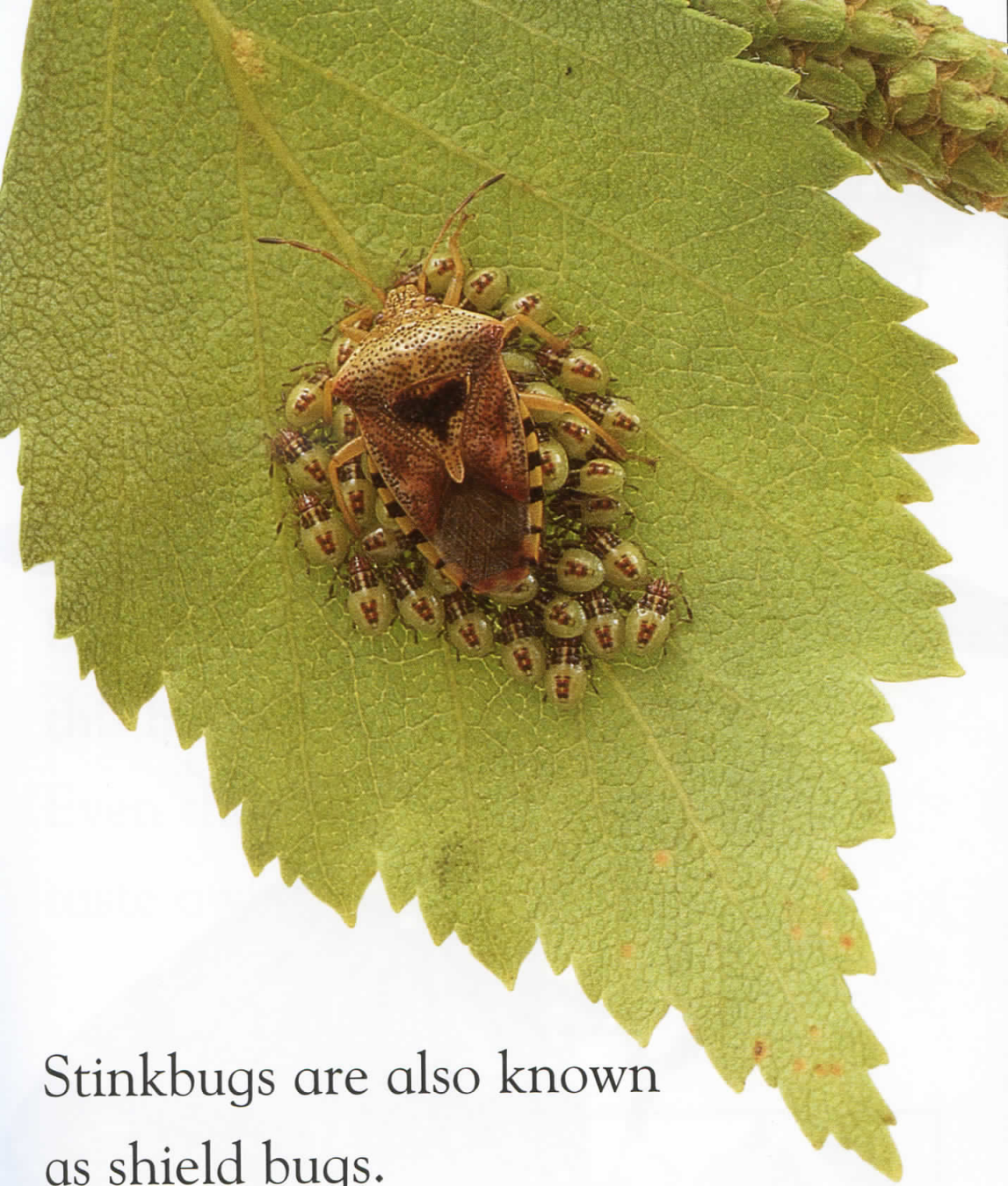


Stinkbugs have glands
that make smells.

Some stinkbugs
ooze a nasty-smelling liquid
when they are in danger.

That's a big turnoff!



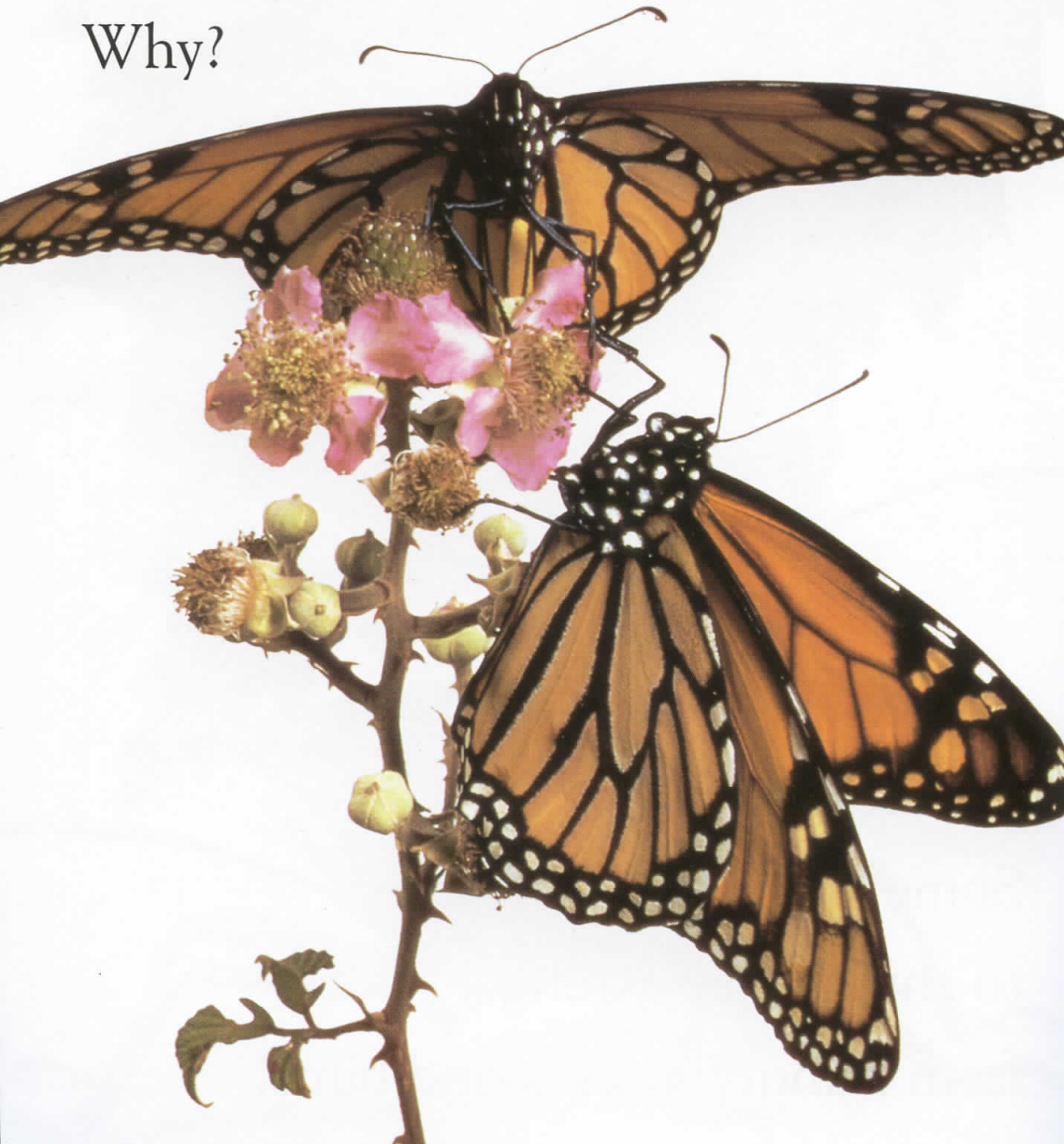


Stinkbugs are also known
as shield bugs.

Some use their flat bodies
to shield their young
from hungry insects and birds.

The monarch butterfly
looks easy to capture and eat.
But hungry bugs and birds
leave it alone.

Why?





In the insect world,
bright colors are a warning.
Bright orange signals that
this butterfly tastes bad.
Even the monarch caterpillars
taste awful.

Changing faces

When a caterpillar
is fully grown,
it changes into a butterfly
inside a hard case like this,
called a chrysalis (KRISS-uh-liss).





*Tropical lappet
moth caterpillar*

This caterpillar's long hairs
break easily.

When enemies try to catch it,
they get a mouthful
of hair instead!

Safety in numbers

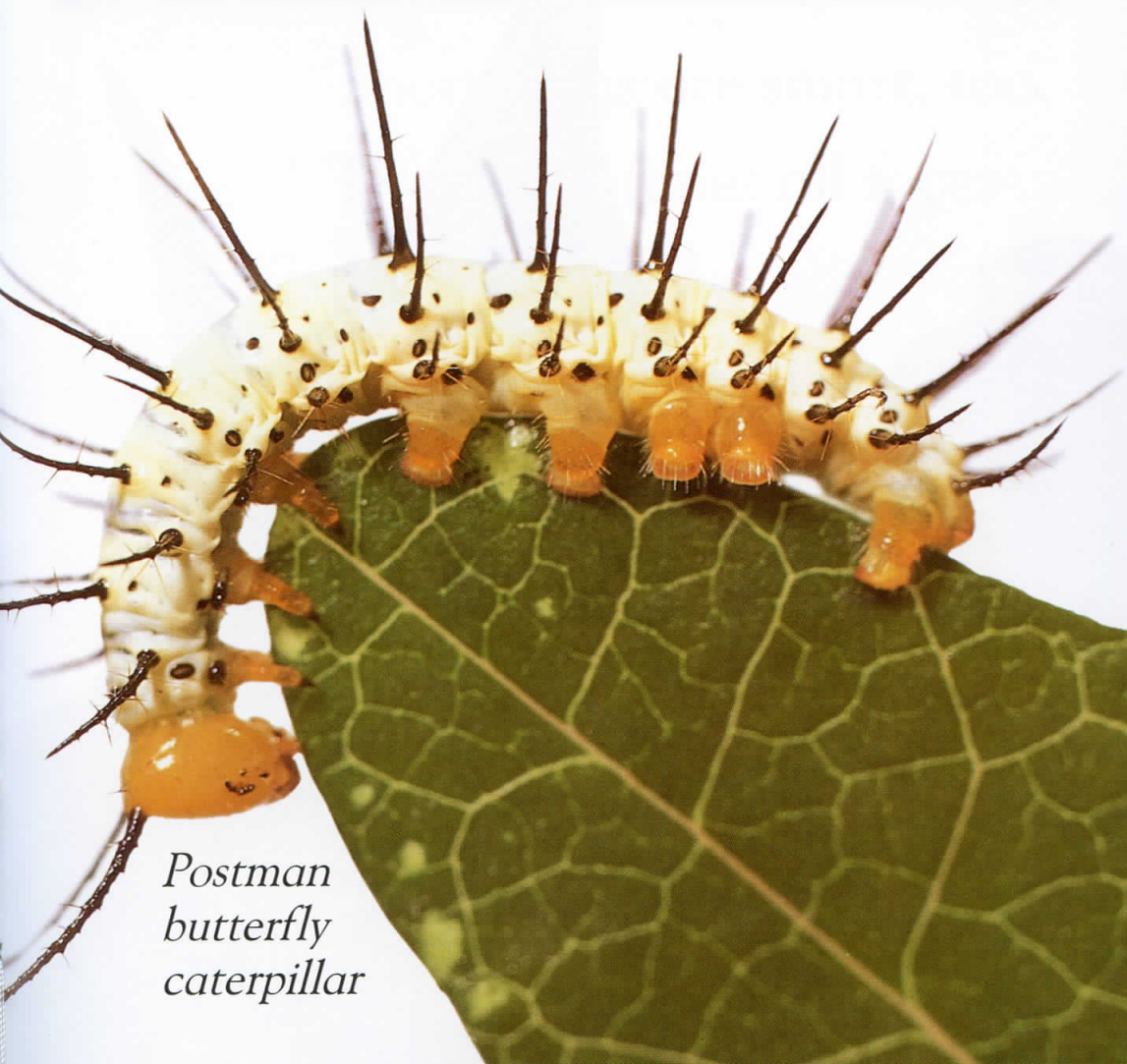
Caterpillars sometimes
huddle together.
They flick their heads up
to startle a hungry enemy.



And this spiky caterpillar
can be deadly.

The leaves that it eats
make its body poisonous.

It is not harmed by the poison,
but its enemies are!



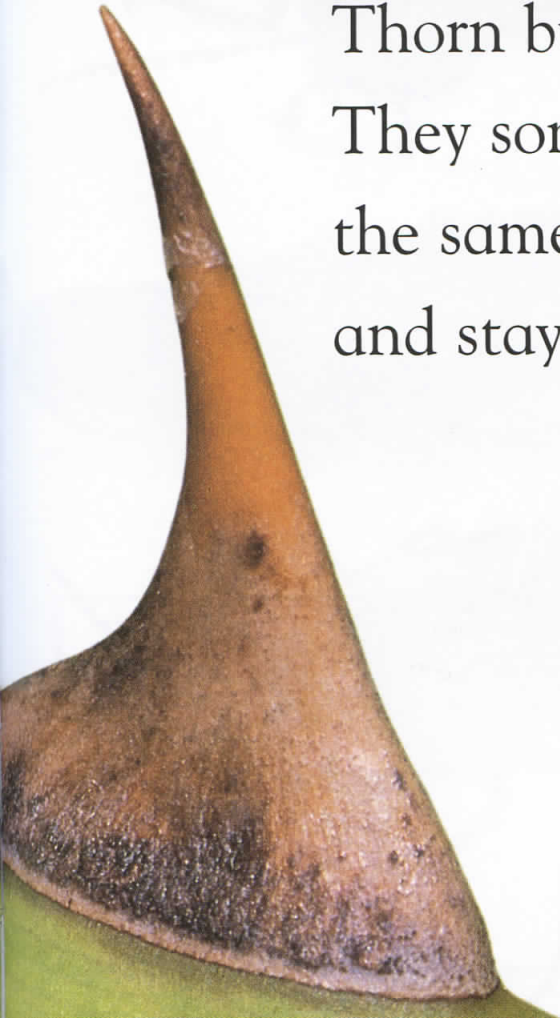
*Postman
butterfly
caterpillar*

A thorn bug is good at hiding.
It looks like a thorn on a twig.
A bird looking for a meal
might not see it.





Thorn bugs are smart, too.
They sometimes all face
the same way
and stay very still!



To avoid being eaten,
this click beetle
has a clever way of escaping.



It arches its back and then
jumps into the air.



If the beetle
lands upside-down,
it throws itself into the air again –
this time hoping to land safely
on its feet!



Flashing lights

Some click beetles
send out light signals.
These flashing lights
help the beetles
to find a mate.



One of these bugs
is a harmless hoverfly.
The other is a hornet
with a nasty sting.
Can you tell
which is which?
No?



Neither can most bugs and birds!
That's why they leave
both of these insects alone.

Still don't know which is which?

The fly is the bug
on the left!





Bug Facts



There are at least one million different kinds of insects in the world.



Sometimes all insects are called "bugs." But the true bugs are those that have sharp, strawlike tubes for feeding.



All insects have six legs, and most have wings at some time in their lives.



Some insects hear with their legs. Other insects taste with their feet.



A few insects eat and eat when they are young. But when they get older, they don't eat anything at all.



Some bugs have amazing vision and can see colors that people cannot see.

