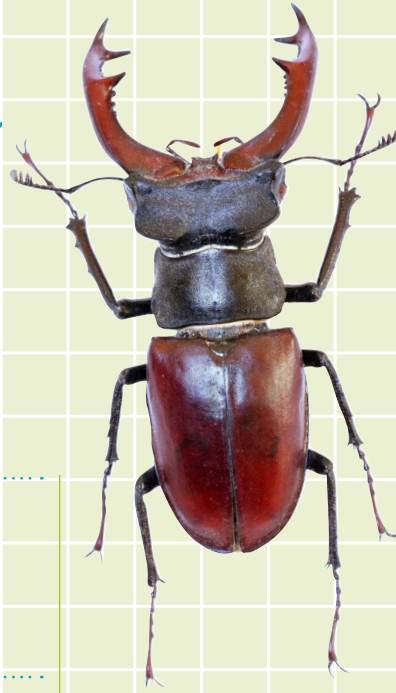


All about stag beetles



HOW TO TELL A MALE FROM A FEMALE

Male stag beetles with their large antlers are absolutely unmistakable.

Females are smaller and have much smaller antlers.

Did you know...?
After living in the soil for years as a larva, the adult beetles only live for a few weeks. During this time they have to find a mate and reproduce.

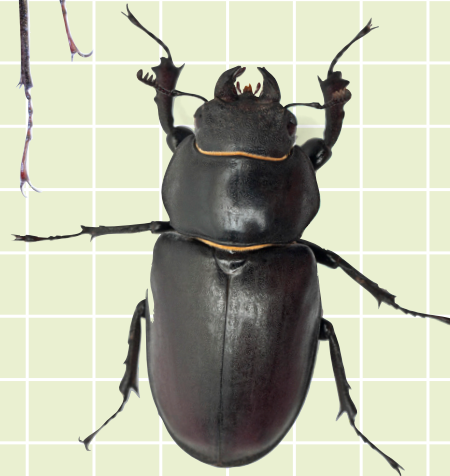
Are stag beetles endangered?

Although their numbers are not decreasing, they are a priority species for conservation in the UK which means we must make sure we look after them and their homes. Sadly they are not doing well in Europe and have gone extinct in Denmark and Luxembourg.

What should I do if I find a stag beetle?

How exciting! Enjoy watching such a magnificent beetle. Then if you can, take a photo and report your sighting at www.ptes.org/stagbeetle.

If the beetle is in danger of being trodden on, run over or eaten by a bird then carefully move it a short distance to safety. Please be careful though as they have been known to give a sharp nip with those impressive antlers. Stag beetles are not poisonous and certainly not aggressive to humans.



LARVAE

A stag beetle larva has a cream coloured body, orange legs and an orange head and can be up to 8cm long.

What are stag beetles?

They are large, very striking beetles that live in the southern parts of the UK. Their large jaws look like antlers and make them very distinctive.

What is special about stag beetles?

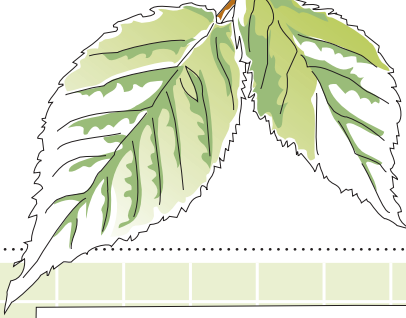
They have a really long life cycle and most of it is spent as a larva underground.

What do stag beetles eat?

Stag beetle larvae love to eat rotting wood (tree stumps, roots and fallen trees).

Did you know...?
Stag beetles are the UK's largest land beetle - only the greater diving beetle is bigger and that lives in the water.

Did you know...?
Stag beetles can fly despite their huge size – but they are a bit clumsy so watch out!



Why are they in trouble?

The dead wood they need to feed on is being tidied away both in gardens and woodlands.

What can I do to help stag beetles?

You could build a log pile in your garden or at school. The logs need to be partly buried so the wood rots down and is nice and soft for them to eat.

Why are beetles important?

There are around 4000 species of beetle just in the UK alone, and hundreds of thousands more around the world. Some beetles eat other insects which harm us or our crops, some are pollinators and we need them to help our fruit and vegetables to grow. Stag beetles are important because they help recycle dead wood and return the nutrients back into the soil. If they didn't do it – who would?

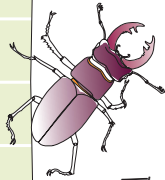


Adult beetles don't eat but they can drink. They can suck moisture from fallen fruit using their feather-like tongues

Did you know...?
The male's huge antler-like jaws are used to fight off other males, not for eating.

Building a log pile

You can build a log pile any time of year

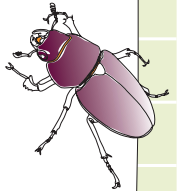


Use wood from any broadleaved tree

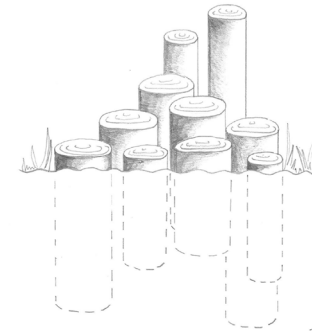
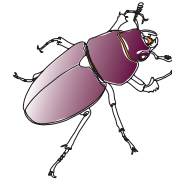


The logs should be at least the thickness of an adult's arm

Place the log pile in partial shade if possible

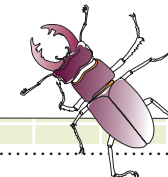
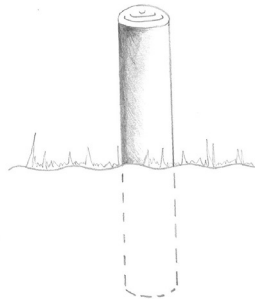


Half bury the logs



Ground level
Approx. 50cm deep

Home sweet home!



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