



# Ladybirds



Ladybirds are a type of insect.

There are lots of different types of ladybird.



Not all of them are brightly coloured and spotty, some are quite dull. The most common type of ladybird in Britain is the seven-spot ladybird.

Most of them have red, orange, or yellow wing covers and black spots. Some are black with red spots.

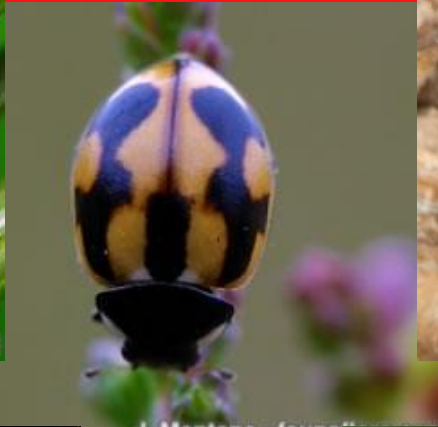


Some have no spots at all!





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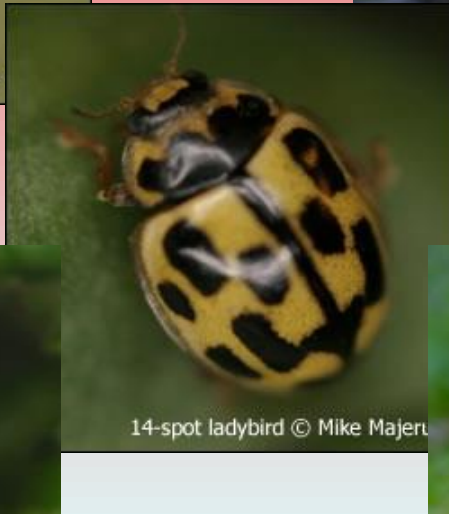
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Orange ladybird © Mike



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14-spot ladybird © Mike Majeru



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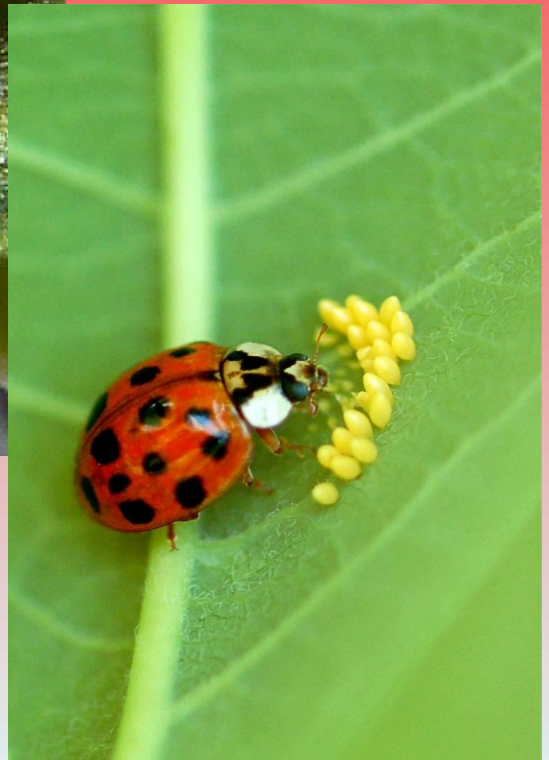
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The female Ladybird is usually larger than the male.



A female Ladybird will lay more than 1000 eggs in her lifetime.

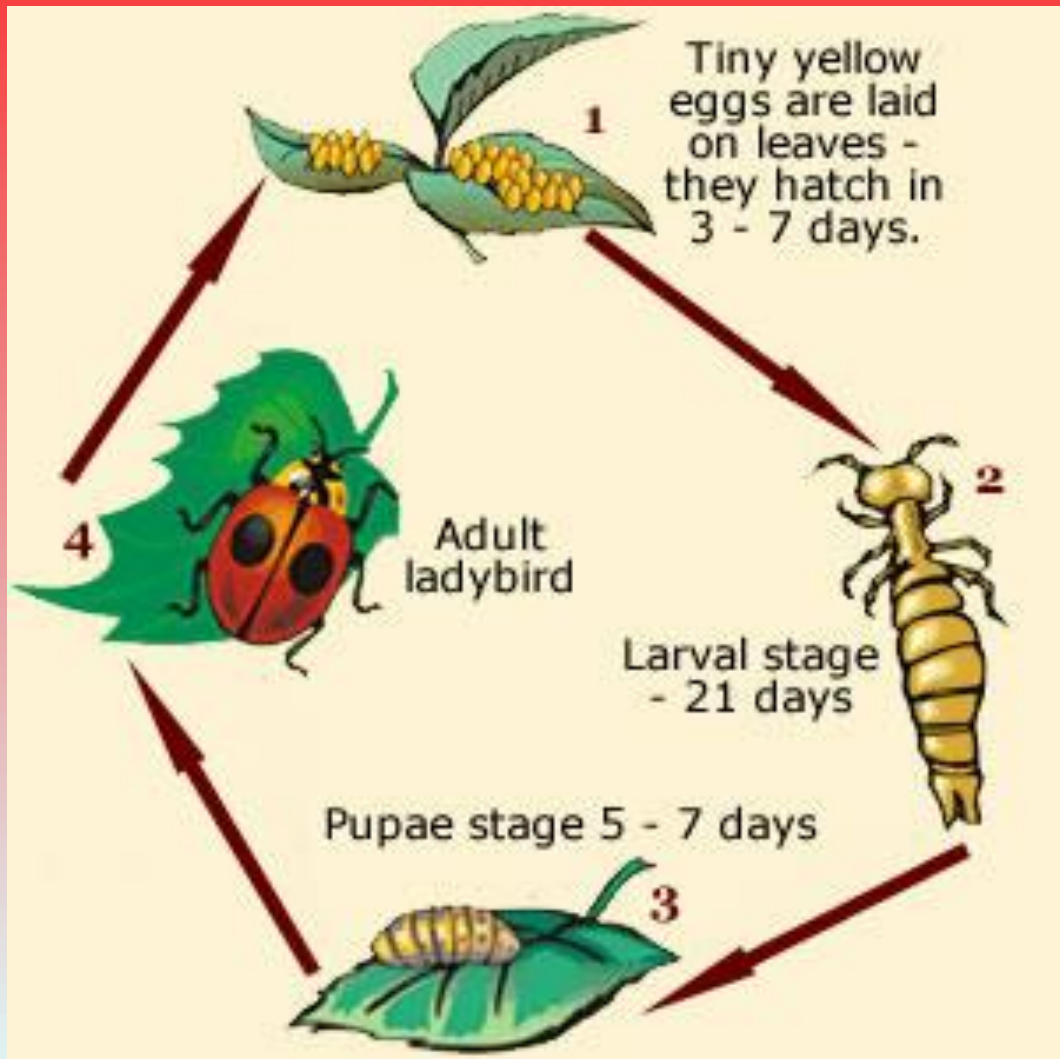
They usually do not have their spots for their first 24 hours.

Their spots fade as they get older.

BUT, the number of spots does not show their age. It helps to identify the type of ladybird.



The life cycle of the average ladybird is between four to six weeks.



A ladybird stays the same size for its whole life.



A hard wing cover protects  
the ladybirds wings.

A ladybirds wings are so thin that  
you can see through them.



Ladybirds will not fly if it is too  
cold.



A ladybird smells with its feet and has antennae to touch taste.



Aphids are a ladybirds favorite food.

Ladybirds are not poisonous to humans.



Ladybirds make a yellow liquid that smells and tastes terrible so predators won't eat them.