# The Colorful World of Beetles!

Ever wonder why some beetles fly at night, roll scat or dung (animal poop), or have exoskeletons so strong they can survive being run over by a car? Are they our friends or foes? And just how beneficial are beetles to our ecosystem?

Beetles are the largest group of animals on Earth with over 350,000 known species living in all types of habitats across the world (in the U.S. we have over 30,000 known species!) each with distinct characteristics. And if you haven't noticed, they come in a remarkable array of shapes, sizes and colors! In general, beetles have two sets of wings, flying wings and hard wings. When the flying wings are not in use, they are protected by the hard wings.

Some beetles cause a lot of damage by eating crops, wood, and food. Others help us by pollinating crops and eating harmful insects. Just like other insects, beetles go through metamorphosis too. They start as eggs and hatch into larvae which are often called **grubs.** Later, beetles enter a pupa stage and transform into adult beetles.

> Remember to document what you find by posting to iNaturalist!

> Look no further and discover some of our local favorites here in San Antonio, Texas!

**Texas Ironclad Beetle**
*Zopherus nodulosus ssp. haldemani*

**Aloeus Ox Beetle**
*Strategus aloeus*

**Seven-spotted Lady Beetle**
*Coccinella septempunctata*

**Asian Lady Beetle**
*Harmonia axyridis*

**Spotted Cucumber Beetle**
*Diabrotica undecimpunctata*

**Common Green June Beetle**
*Cotinis nitida*

**California Warrior Beetle**
*Pasimachus californicus*



**Cottonwood Borer**
*Plectrodera scalator*



**Shiny Flea Beetle**
*Asphaera lustrans*



**Haldeman's Green Potato Beetle**
*Beetle Leptinotarsa haldemani*



**Texas Flower Scarab**
*Trichiotinus texanus*



**Giant Cactus Longhorn Beetle**
*Moneilema gigas*



**Texas Black Phanaeu**
*Phanaeus triangularis ssp. Texensis*



**Bumelia Borer**
*Plinthocoelium suaveolens*



**Spotless Lady Beetle**
*Cycloneda sanguinea*



**Fiery Searcher Beetle**
*Calosoma scrutator*



**Convergent Lady Beetle**
*Hippodamia convergens*



**Texas Eyed Click Beetle**
*Alaus lusciosus*