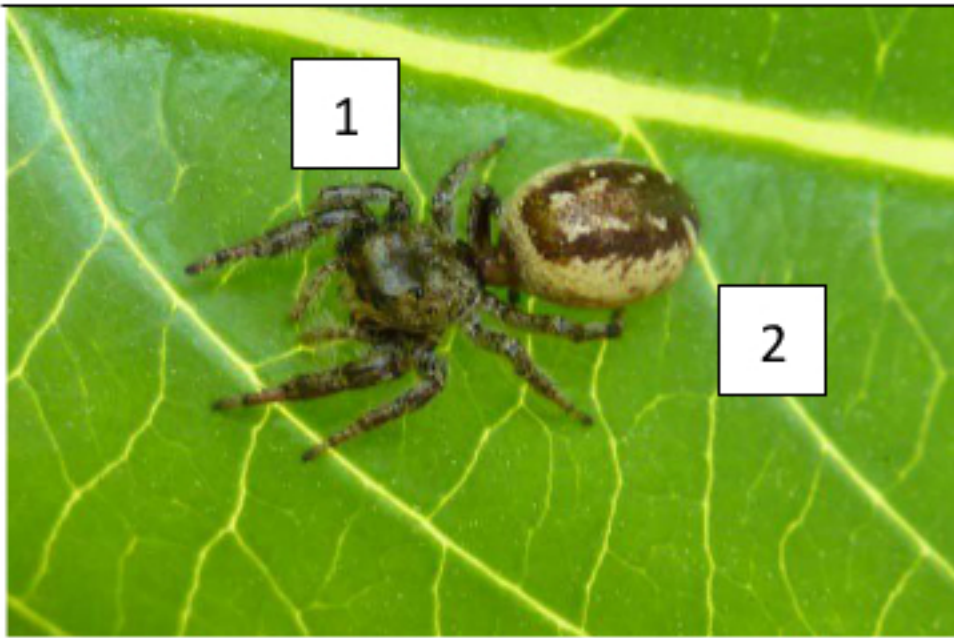


Bugs and Blights

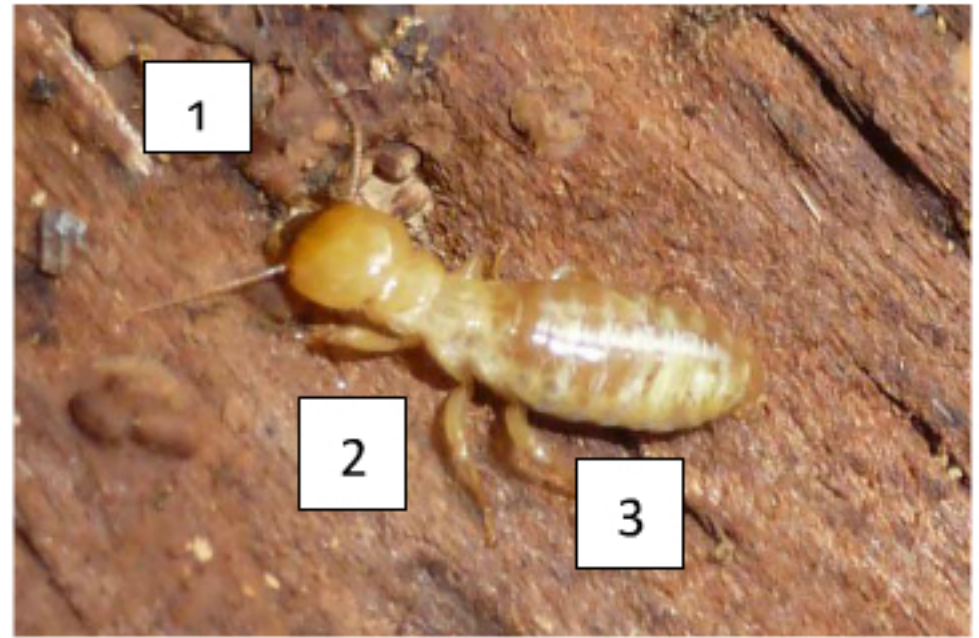
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Soon the insects will warm up and start flying, walking, feeding and frassing. They will cross paths with people who are likely to ask you what it is. Start by learning basic insect groups. Then hit the picture books. See <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/bugbooks07.htm> for a list of books for ID and good reading.



JUMPING SPIDER

Spiders have two body regions: 1) a fused head/thorax and 2) abdomen. They are often found guarding their egg sac. There are many kinds of spiders; some hatch from bright white egg sacs. Key features used to identify spiders include the kind of web they make, the number and arrangement of the eyes visible on the head, or their behavior - the jumping spiders run forward, backward and sideways with equal agility. Spiders disperse by hanging from a silk thread, then catching the first good breeze that goes by. See Spiders and their Kin – easy ID.



TERMITES

Insects have 3 body regions: 1) head, 2) thorax and 3) abdomen. Usually they have 6 legs (3 pair) and four wings (2 pair) and 2 antennae 1(pair). Some such as this worker termite, or lice and fleas have lost their wings, which would only hinder their movement through hairs, or there is a wingless and winged stage such as this termite worker. In some insects wingless adults only form once a year for dispersing to a new host or habitat. All the leg and wing attachments are from the thorax.



STINK BUGS

True bugs, especially stink bugs, are often mistaken for beetles. (They are called true bugs to distinguish them from any old insect that we call a "bug"). True bugs have a part leathery and part membranous forewing and a triangular area between them on the thorax. They also have straw-like sucking mouthparts for sucking plant juices or liquefied solids. The tube is best viewed from the underside. There are predators and plant-feeders in this group. The young bugs look just like the adults but have only small wing buds that get bigger with each molt until they are a fully formed adult.



GROUND BEETLE ADULT

Beetles have forewings (top pair) that form a hard protective shell over the softer membranous hind wings. The two wings come together to form a straight line down the back. Beetles (adults and larvae) can be so many things: woodborer, plant feeder, leaf miner, scavenger, predator, seed eaters, root feeders. They have chewing mouthparts. This ground beetle is large with iridescent purplish black forewings. They are often found belly-up in the spring.