

Larvae of UK Ladybirds

A juvenile ladybird is called a larva. It has four instars, i.e. it sheds its skin four times as it grows. Early instar larvae are very small and difficult to identify, but third and fourth instar larvae, particularly of the larger ladybird species, may be identified in the field. Late instars of many of the common UK ladybird species are shown below.

Ideally this guide should be used in conjunction with a key to ladybird larvae – e.g. in 'Ladybirds' by Majerus & Kearns, 1989, Richmond Publishing.

<p>7-spot ladybird <i>Coccinella 7-punctata</i></p>  <p>© Remy Ware Habitat: Generalist Notes: 4 pairs of coloured markings on abdomen</p>	<p>Harlequin ladybird <i>Harmonia axyridis</i></p>  <p>© Remy Ware Habitat: Generalist Notes: Orange L-shape on each side plus 4 orange spines towards rear</p>	<p>14-spot ladybird <i>Propylea 14-punctata</i></p>  <p>© Remy Ware Habitat: Generalist Notes: Quite smooth (hairs but no spines)</p>	<p>2-spot ladybird <i>Adalia 2-punctata</i></p>  <p>Larva & pupa © Robert Frost Habitat: Generalist, often urban Notes: Similar to 10-spot ladybird</p>
<p>10-spot ladybird <i>Adalia 10-punctata</i></p>  <p>© Peter Brown Habitat: Deciduous trees Notes: Similar to 2-spot ladybird</p>	<p>Cream-spot ladybird <i>Calvia 14-guttata</i></p>  <p>© Remy Ware Habitat: Deciduous trees Notes: Branched spines with hairs on abdomen</p>	<p>Kidney-spot ladybird <i>Chilocorus renipustulatus</i></p>  <p>© Robert Frost Habitat: Deciduous trees Notes: Spiny, dark all over</p>	<p>Orange ladybird <i>Halyzia 16-guttata</i></p>  <p>© Robert Frost Habitat: Deciduous trees Notes: Yellow with pale head (cf. 22-spot ladybird)</p>
<p>Pine ladybird <i>Exochomus 4-pustulatus</i></p>  <p>© Peter Brown Habitat: Trees Notes: Spiny</p>	<p>Eyed ladybird <i>Anatis ocellata</i></p>  <p>© Remy Ware Habitat: Conifers Notes: Very spiny</p>	<p>Striped ladybird <i>Myzia oblongoguttata</i></p>  <p>© Remy Ware Habitat: Conifers Notes: Quite smooth</p>	<p>Cream-streaked ladybird <i>Harmonia 4-punctata</i></p>  <p>© Robert Frost Habitat: Conifers Notes: Very similar to harlequin but only 2 orange spines towards rear</p>
<p>24-spot ladybird <i>Subcoccinella 24-punctata</i></p>  <p>© Robert Frost Habitat: Grass Notes: Greenish-grey with branched spines</p>	<p>16-spot ladybird <i>Tytthaspis 16-punctata</i></p>  <p>© Mike Majerus Habitat: Grass Notes: Pale brown-grey with conspicuous black hairs</p>	<p>22-spot ladybird <i>Thea 22-punctata</i></p>  <p>© Mike Majerus Habitat: Grass Notes: Yellow with dark head (cf. Orange ladybird)</p>	<p>Heather ladybird <i>Chilocorus 2-pustulatus</i></p>  <p>© Peter Brown Habitat: Heather heathland Notes: Pale stripe across abdomen</p>