

Earwig



Earwigs are insects which are readily recognized by the pinchers or forcep-like appendages at the end of the abdomen. They sometimes build up to large numbers in warm weather and then may invade homes or other structures. Earwigs measure approximately 1/4 inch to 1 inch long.

They are primarily scavengers on dead animal and plant material, while some species are predatory. Other species may actually feed on living plants. They are active at night, and some species are attracted to lights in large numbers. During the day, they usually find shelter beneath stones, boards, and debris. Only a few of the winged species are good fliers. Earwigs are often transported great distances in potted plants, nursery stock, or other plant material.

The name "earwig" comes from a tale that earwigs burrow into the brains of humans through the ear and therein lay their eggs. Earwigs are omnivores that are predisposed to hiding in warm humid crevices and as such one may crawl into a human ear canal. This is not, however, a location where they are frequently found.



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