Ground Beetle
GROUND BEETLE

FAMILY: Carabidae
ORDER: Coleoptera

IDENTIFICATION CLUES

- 1/8 - 1 1/8 inches long
- usually shiny black but some have bright colors
- body is slightly flattened
- long legs; they are fast runners
- head narrow with threadlike antennae, compound eyes and large chewing mouthparts

Where to Look:
Ground beetles can be found under logs, rocks and leaf litter in lawns, woods, fields and vacant lots.

Who Eats It?
Ground beetles are eaten by birds, toads and frogs.

What It Eats.
Ground beetles eat many kinds of soft-bodied larvae like caterpillars and fly larvae. They also eat earthworms, snails and slugs.

Did You Know
One type of ground beetle called the bombardier beetle defends itself by shooting off a poison liquid the temperature of boiling water. The liquid turns into a puff that creates a protective screen.

Role in the Ecosystem
They are important predators of many species of “pest” caterpillars.

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