

# British Nature Guide

## The Devil's Coach Horse beetle



**This is a beetle that should be looked at but not touched. It is quite large for a beetle and can grow to over 30mm in length. If it feels threatened it will raise its abdomen (tail) and squirt a horrible smelling liquid at whatever has upset it. It has powerful jaws and can give quite a painful bite to a finger if it gets too close. It looks more like a scorpion than a beetle.**



**Beetles have six legs, a head with two long antennae, and an abdomen, all connected to a thorax. The thorax is where the shoulders would be on a person. The abdomen is the large flexible part at the back of the beetle. It has wings hidden under casings on the back of the abdomen, but it rarely flies, preferring to stay on the ground.**

**The Devil's Coach Horse is not usually active during the day. It spends the day hidden under a wood pile, or a rotting log. It hunts for insects, spiders and even slugs during the night. It can be seen all over Britain.**