

British Nature Guide

Harlequin Ladybird

Here are three adult Harlequin Ladybirds. They all look different.



In the summer the females lay eggs and they quickly hatch into larvae. Below you can see pictures of three larvae. In the last picture you can see the adult and larvae together. Ladybirds have wings hidden under their shell and they can fly. The larvae do not have wings.



Just like the adults the larvae eat aphids, which are small insects. In late summer the larvae find a safe place to pupate. A few weeks later an adult emerges from the pupae. Look carefully at the last picture. The pupae is empty. The adult ladybird has climbed out through the split in the end.



In the autumn the adults look for somewhere warm to spend the winter. They will often come into houses.