



Bestioles et Autres Bébêtes

by Sue Burgess

Bugs and other creatures!

Well August is upon us and with it long sunny days to spend outside in the French countryside. Rural France with its farm and woodland is the perfect habitat for *bestioles* (bugs) and *bébêtes* (baby word for creatures or animals).

The mosquito (*la moustique*) and the midge (*le moucheron*) are common predators as night falls.

You are also likely to see a moth (*un papillon de nuit*) but a Stag beetle (*un lucane or un lucane cerf-volant*) may be more difficult to spot. They live on rotten wood (*bois pourri*) and are prey (*la proie*) to jays, magpies, foxes and cats. They are a member of the beetle family (*un coléoptère*).

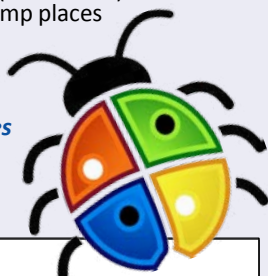
In the dark evenings without artificial lights look out for glow-worms (*le ver luisant*). A French proverb says that it is better to see a spider in the evening than in the morning (*araignée du matin chagrin, araignée du soir espoir*) – a spider in the morning means chagrin, a spider in the evening means hope.

There are lots of butterflies (*les papillons*). A ladybird or ladybug (*une coccinelle*) is supposed to be lucky so don't brush it off when it lands on you.

It is easy to see firebugs (*les gendarmes*). They are usually found at the bottom of tree trunks or on old tree stumps. They are part of the stink bug family (*la punaise*) but on the contrary to Green shield bugs (*la punaise des bois*) they don't stink when crushed.

In August watch out for chigger / harvest mites (*aoûtat*). They are a small member of the Acaridae family (*un acarien*) and tend to bite, particularly in warm damp places – under the arms, etc.

Cats and dogs need to be checked for fleas (*les puces*) and ticks (*les tiques*) and children may pick up headlice (*les poux*) or nits (*les lentes*)



Vocabulary / Vocabulaire:

l'abeille	bee
l'acarien	mite
le cafard	cockroach
le bourdon	bumblebee
la larve	larva
la mouche à viande	bluebottle
la chenille	caterpillar
la mouche	fly
la cigale	cicada
le fourmi	ant
le frelon	hornet
le grillon	cricket
la guêpe	wasp
la demoiselle	damselfly
la libellule	dragonfly
la luciole	firefly
le ver luisant	glow-worm
la sauterelle	grasshopper
le puceron	aphid greenfly

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