

CIEEM Student Resources: Online Species Identification



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THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF
ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT (CIEEM) IS THE
PROFESSIONAL BODY FOR
ECOLOGISTS AND
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGERS
WORKING TO MANAGE
AND ENHANCE THE NATURAL
ENVIRONMENT IN THE UK AND
IRELAND.



There are a multitude of great online resources available to help you improve your wildlife identification skills, as well as printed resources such as the [FSC fold-out guides](#). You can also use the [iSpot](#) website which allows you to upload photos of the plants and animals that you find and experts respond to you to let you know what species it is, or, if you made a guess, if your identification was correct. There are also lots of apps out there for example [Seek by iNaturalist](#) (it has been called a Shazam for nature!)

We have pulled together some of the many online ID resources and apps for you to develop your skills from the comfort of your own bed or garden!

Plants

- [Botanical Society of the British Isles](#) (BSBI) lists lots of great botanical ID links
- You can take part in [BSBI's Wildflower Hour](#) every Sunday 8-9pm, where everyone shares photographs of wild or naturalised plants we've spotted in bloom across Britain & Ireland during the previous week. Use the hashtag #wildflowerhour or, if you just want to see what other people are sharing, you can take a look on [Twitter](#).
- [Woodland Trust A-Z of British trees](#)
- [Woodland Trust tree ID app](#)
- [OPAL tree ID guide](#)
- [Discover the Wild violas](#), winter tree buds, tree leaves, Crane's-bills, Stork's-bills (and more!) ID sheets
- [OPAL lichen survey guide](#)
- [British Lichen Society](#)
- [British Bryological Society](#)

Fungi

- [NHBS: Mushroom Identification: Pro Tips from Top UK Mycologists](#)
- [British Mycological Society](#) Keys for Macrofungi
- [Woodland Trust: Fungi and Lichens](#)

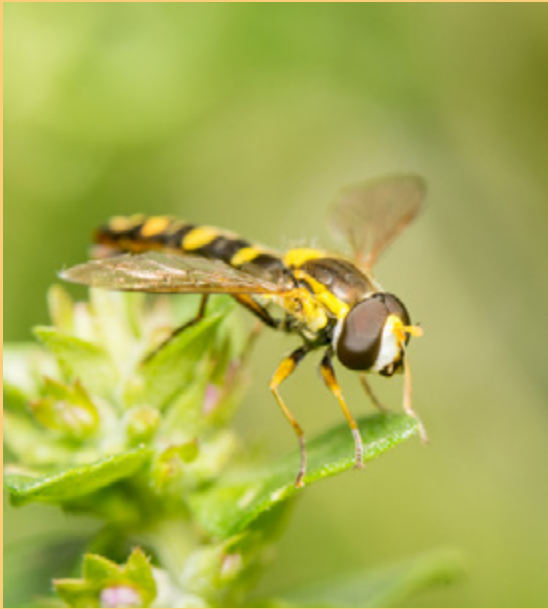
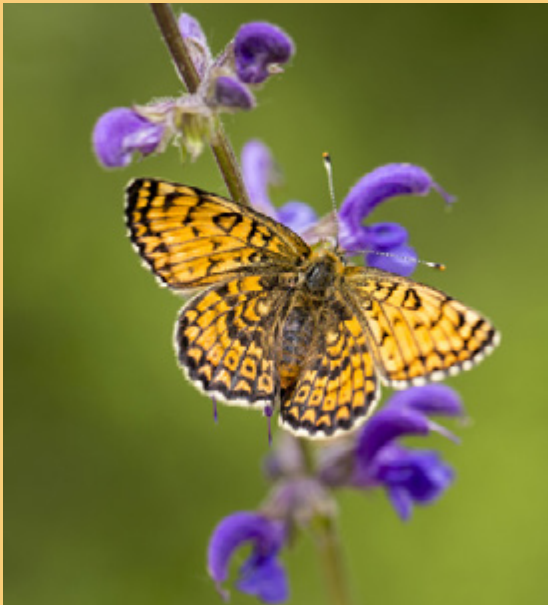


Image credit: Amber Connett



- [Inside Ecology Fungi ID App Round-Up](#)
- [UK Fungi Forum](#)

Invertebrates

- [Buglife](#)
- [Jeremy Early's](#) photo gallery covers all invertebrates
- [British Bugs](#)
- [Dipterists Forum](#)

Butterflies and Moths

- [Anthony McCluskey \(Butterfly Conservation\)](#) butterfly identification and recording workshop (Youtube)
- [Butterfly Conservation butterfly ID guide](#)
- [Polli:Nation](#) pollinator ID guides
- [Ireland's National Biodiversity Data Centre Butterfly Monitoring Scheme](#)
- [UK Butterflies](#)
- [UK Moths photo guide to British moths](#)
- [Butterfly Conservation](#) Moths Count

Bumblebees

- [Dave Goulson](#) how to identify the 7 commonest bumblebees guide (YouTube)
- [Bumblebee Conservation Trust](#) bumblebee ID guide
- [The Bees, Wasps & Ants Recording Scheme \(BWARS\)](#) ID guides
- [Ireland's National Biodiversity Data Centre](#) Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme
- [Steven Falk's](#) bumblebee photos for ID, plus lots of other groups too
- [XPolli:Nation](#)- bumblebee and butterfly species ID training tool, series of photos to try with instant feedback

Spiders

- [Araneae Spiders of Europe](#) - note that this includes all European countries so misidentification risks are high and so it is worth checking distributions at <http://srs.britishspiders.org.uk/>.
- [World Spider Catalogue](#) spider ID books and papers from throughout the world. You need to sign up for an account but the main ID books from the UK, and everywhere else in the world, are available for free.
- [Chris Cathrine of Caledonian Conservation](#) (and CIEEM Trainer) has been making YouTube videos about hunting spiders and harvestmen in his garden, as well as ID.
- [British Arachnological Society](#) spider factsheets



Dragonflies and Damselflies

- [British Dragonfly Society](#)

Beetles

- [Coleoptera](#) UK beetle recording
- [The Coleopterist](#)
- [WCG photos](#) of British beetles, including notes on ID features
- [Mike's insect keys](#)
- [Steve Falk's](#) beetle photos

Freshwater Invertebrates

- [OPAL freshwater invertebrate guide](#)

Mammals

- [Mammal Society](#) ID resources
- [The Bat Conservation Trust](#) photos, species factsheets and recordings of all UK species
- [Natural History Museum](#) bats in flight ID guide
- [People's Trust for Endangered Species](#) dormouse training

Amphibians and Reptiles

- [ARG UK](#) Amphibian and Reptile Groups of the UK ID guides
- [Froglife](#) Amphibian & Reptile Ecology and Survey Methods training

Birds

- [RSPB bird ID](#) and [Birds A-Z](#)
- [British Trust for Ornithology bird ID videos](#)
- [UK Birds and Sounds app](#)
- [British Bird ID app](#)
- [How to Identify the UK's 10 Most Common Birds](#)

SEWBRc

The South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre (SEWBRc) has also pulled together a [list of resources](#) and ideas to help you improve identification, contribute to citizen science and connect with nature. This list includes online lectures, courses, home and garden surveys, and events.



CIEEM

**Chartered Institute of Ecology and
Environmental Management**

43 Southgate Street, Winchester,
Hampshire SO23 9EH

01962 868626 | enquiries@cieem.net |
www.cieem.net