



**Across**

- 1. This predaceous diving beetle lives only in slow streams of central Wyoming, and is currently being evaluated for its conservation status.
- 4. Wyoming's state butterfly since 2009, this pretty green insect and a Wyoming town both are named after a Civil War general.
- 6. This bee-mimicking fly has larvae that are predatory on grasshopper eggs.
- 14. This insect feeds on more than 400 plants and can reach population densities of more than 100 per square yard. It was cooked and used as food by ancient Wyoming indigenous peoples.
- 15. This pretty red, orange, and yellow moth is actually cryptic when they rest on the blossoms of Blanket flower. Their caterpillars feed on the same plant.
- 17. This widespread blood-feeding insect is sometimes found in hotels and college dorm rooms.
- 18. Larvae of this predatory insect dig conical pits in sandy soil to capture ants.
- 19. Found along muddy shorelines, these predatory bugs can hop and they look like toads.
- 20. The aquatic stream beetles can "hold their breath" for years (they breathe across the surface of an air bubble getting oxygen from the water and can stay underwater indefinitely). One was reported to live underwater for 15 years!
- 21. Once the nemesis of western pioneers, in the 1800s this Wyoming insect swarmed in the largest aggregations of insects ever recorded, but now it is extinct!
- 22. Caterpillars of this checkered butterfly feed on the leaves of Indian Paintbrush, the state flower of Wyoming.

- 23. This beautiful metallic purple beetle contains the chemical "cantharidin," which will cause blisters if you touch it. Some blister beetles are so poisonous, that it takes only a few to kill a horse!
- 24. A single mound of this ant can contain as many as 40,000 worker females, all sisters.
- 25. Among the oddest of all insects residing in Wyoming, this tiny, flightless, parasitic beetle lives only in the fur of living beavers!



**Down**

- 2. This large mayfly of Wyoming rivers is a significant food source for trout, and serves as a model insect for fly-tying.
- 3. Caterpillars of this pretty white, black and yellow moth feed on sagebrush and have stinging spines. Development to the adult stage can take several years.
- 4. Our museum has one Wyoming specimen record of this tiger beetle, which was collected by Professor Knight in 1895!
- 5. So far, the only collecting record for this insect species in the state of Wyoming is from the spruce trees in one residential yard in Laramie!
- 7. This predatory fly is an excellent mimic of bumblebees.
- 8. Aquatic larvae of this caddisfly spin up to 70 silk strands at a time into fine-mesh silk nets that can filter diatoms from stream water. One study calculated that in a single silk net there are over 100 million tiny mesh openings and over one kilometer of microscopic silk strands!

The UW Insect Museum  
and the  
Biodiversity Institute  
present a  
**WYOMING INSECT  
TRIVIA PUZZLE**



- 9. Among the largest stinging wasps in Wyoming, this impressive insect catches, stings, and paralyzes large spiders, used to provision her nests.
- 10. This fly breeds only in acidic hot springs in Yellowstone National Park.
- 11. This coal-black butterfly lives only at high elevations on grassy talus slopes above treeline and can be seen in July flying over windswept tundra above 13,000 feet elevation.
- 12. This rangeland insect is "quite the buzz" when it emerges.
- 13. Adults of this large dragonfly are powerful fliers and may have flown hundreds of miles to get to Wyoming.
- 16. The largest insect to live year-round in Wyoming, this eye-spotted moth is named for the Cyclops of Greek mythology who imprisoned Odysseus in a cave.





24 Across

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Anabrus simplex</i>	Mormon cricket
<i>Anax junius</i>	Green darner
<i>Antheraea polyphemus</i>	Polyphemus moth
<i>Callophrys sheridanii</i>	Sheridan's green hairstreak
<i>Cicindela limbata</i>	Sandy tiger beetle
<i>Cimex lectularius</i>	Bed bug
<i>Coniopteryx</i> species	Dusty-wing
<i>Dolophilodes aequalis</i>	Net-spinning caddisfly
<i>Ephydra thermophila</i>	Yellowstone hot springs alkali fly
<i>Erebia magdalena</i>	Magdalena alpine
<i>Euphydryas anicia</i>	Anicia checkerspot
<i>Formica obscuripes</i>	Western thatching ant
<i>Gelastocoris oculatus</i>	Toad bug
<i>Hemileuca hera</i>	Sagebrush sheep moth
<i>Hemipepsis ustulata</i>	Spider wasp
<i>Heterlimnius corpulentus</i>	Riffle beetle
<i>Hexagenia limbata</i>	Giant yellow mayfly
<i>Hygrotus diversipes</i>	Wyoming narrow-foot diving beetle
<i>Laphria fernaldi</i>	Fernald's robberfly
<i>Lytta nuttalli</i>	Nuttall's blister beetle
<i>Melanoplus spretus</i>	Rocky Mountain locust
<i>Platypedia putnami</i>	Putnam's cicada
<i>Platypsyllus castoris</i>	Beaver parasite beetle
<i>Schinia masoni</i>	Mason's flower moth
<i>Scotoleon nigrilabris</i>	Ant lion
<i>Systoechus oreas</i>	Bee fly

Fill the spaces with common names to complete the puzzle.



16 Down



10 Down



7 Down



21 Across



2 Down



22 Across



11 Down



8 Down



14 Across

For the solution, go to [www.uwyo.edu/Biodiversity/](http://www.uwyo.edu/Biodiversity/).