

# A Bug's Life

# Robber flies

Family: Asilidae

## Fun facts

- Diverse family of predatory flies
- Some species are bee or wasp mimics
- Often still, perched on vegetation
- Ambush prey from a wide variety of insect orders
- Larvae develop in soil or decaying wood
- Found in woodlands, gardens, open areas in July to September

## Identification

- Large eyes and short antennae
- Elongated, tapered abdomen
- Body can be bare to very hairy
- Beak-like mouthpart

### Hanging thieves (common species)

- Stripes on thorax, very long legs, green iridescent eyes, after catching prey, will suspend itself above ground with just front legs

## Management

- None recommended
- Generalist predator that may feed on pollinators and other beneficial insects

## Caution

- Do not handle, large robber flies may inflict painful bite



Hanging thieves



Hanging thieves



Giant robber fly

Photos: J. Green