

Pitfall Traps

What's your species richness?

FSC



Springtail



16 legs: 6 true
legs, 10 "prolegs"

Caterpillar



One pair of
wings

Fly



Snail



Slug



Two pincers

Earwig



Black and
shiny

Ground beetle



May raise
its tail!

Rove beetle



Ladybird



7 pairs of legs

Woodlouse



Legs to the side

Centipede



Legs
underneath

Millipede



Pill Millipede



Spider (smaller)



Spider (larger)



Harvestman



Mite



Ant

Things to look out for:

- It's easy to mistake a pill millipede for a pill woodlouse, because they both roll up in a ball – pill millipedes are smooth, black and shiny with around 18 pairs of legs. Pill woodlice are rougher, grey and only have 7 pairs of legs.
- Harvestmen vs. Spider vs. Mite: these are all arachnids with 8 legs, so are easy to mix up.

Mites are tiny – perhaps 0.5-2mm – with so little room, their legs come out from the centre of their body, even from below the large round abdomen at the end of their body. This time of year, Red Spider Mites turn from green/brown to red/orange and are looking for places to hibernate.

Spiders legs come out from the middle part of their body (called the cephalothorax), with the abdomen behind the legs. You might see very small money spiders with round abdomens, or larger species such as wolf spider that tend to have longer abdomens.

Harvestmen have a less well-defined body, similar to mites, but are much larger, with long legs – some people even call these Daddy Long Legs! Confusingly, Crane Flies and Cellar Spiders are also called Daddy Long Legs by some – if it has a pair of wings, it's a Crane Fly, and if it has a well-defined abdomen behind the legs, it's a spider.

- Springtails are seriously small – look for tiny shrimp-like creatures that can jump incredibly far!