

## AMAZING MINIBEASTS SHEET

Barry the horned Dung Beetle might be the strongest animal on earth, but these minibeasts (small invertebrates) are impressive too.



### FASTEST!

The **Australian tiger beetle** is fastest on its feet and can chase prey at speeds of **9km per hour**, but **dragonflies** rule the air and can zoom by at up to **56km per hour**.

### LONGEST!

This crown goes to a species of **stick insect** from China, which measured an incredible **62.4cm long** – roughly the length of two rulers. That's one big stick!

### SMALLEST!

The **fairyfly** sounds cute and, at **1.5mm long**, it's smaller than a grain of rice. But the fairyfly is a type of wasp, which lays its eggs inside other insects. When the baby is born, it eats its host. Yuk!

### HEAVIEST!

Stag beetles may be the UK's biggest minibeast, but they're small compared to the **giant weta** – a type of cricket. At **70 grams**, it weighs more than a sparrow and can fill the palm of your hand.

### LOUDEST!

A type of **cicada** (a bit like a grasshopper) from Africa can flex its abdomen to produce calls as loud as **106.7 decibels**. That's similar to a motorcycle roaring by or a noisy lawn mower!

### WEIRDEST!

It's impossible to choose just one – **ladybirds** have smelly yellow blood to put off their predators, **slugs** have four noses, **crickets** have ears on their legs, **butterflies** taste with their feet and **caterpillars** have up to 12 eyes!

# WOW!

Over 90% of creatures living on Earth are minibeasts and there are over one million minibeast species. Scientists think there are millions more they haven't even found yet!

