

Lampyridae

Firefly
Lightning Bug

Native to Maine

Upland
Forests and Fields

Adult Form



Paul Pratt, ojbway.com

PERMITTED USE

Look for a brown, black, or striped flying beetle about 2.5 cm long. They have large eyes, 3 pairs of legs, and 3 body parts. Light organs on their tail give the firefly its name.

Habitat



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Look for Fireflies in forest clearings, meadows, and near standing water. They are often found in long grasses. Males often flash during flight while females flash when perched.

Life Cycle Description

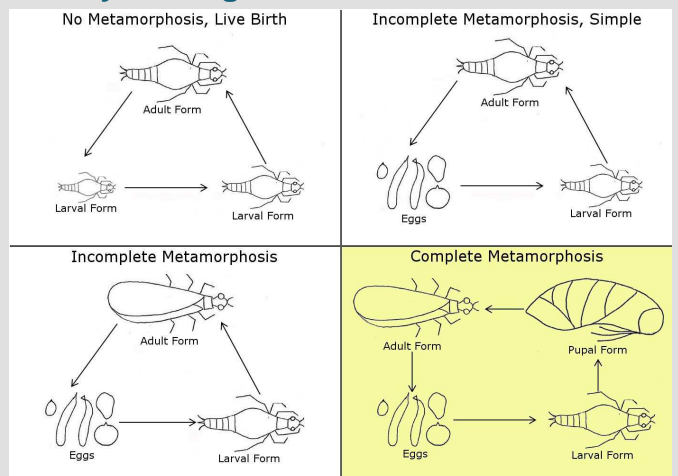


Gerald J Lenhard, Louisiana State Univ, Bugwood.org

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Females lay eggs in the ground. The larvae feed on worms and slugs and overwinter underground or under the bark of logs. In spring they pupate and emerge as adult beetles.

Life Cycle Diagram



Larval Form



Gerald J. Lenhard, Forestry Images

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Look for leathery, flattened larvae with several segments. The rear segments glow, giving larvae the nickname of glow-worms. Specialized mouthparts help them catch prey.

Similar Species

Each species of firefly has a distinct flash color and flashing pattern. This helps individuals of a species find each other to mate. Fireflies produce a flash of light that ranges in color from yellow to green to orange.

Fun Fact

Fireflies are unique in the bioluminescence (lighted tail) that they use to attract mates. Some Fireflies use their flash to attract males of other species to eat. In some places light pollution (near cities) has disrupted the health of firefly populations.

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