



INSECT SECTION

BLUE GROUND BEETLE

ABOUT

The Blue Ground Beetle (*Carabus Intricatus*) is a large wingless beetle, although it does have wing cases (typical of beetles) with particularly rough surfaces. The Blue Ground Beetle is either a pretty metallic purple in color or has a blue sheen, and usually measures .9843-1.496in (25-38mm). It lives under damp, rotten, moss-covered wood or under rocks in well-established oak or beech woods. This species needs a moist atmosphere and a habitat that has little, if any, ground vegetation. Blue Ground Beetles are nocturnal (come out at night) carnivores (meat-eaters) and their favorite food is a certain type of slug. Little is really known about this very rare insect, but they seem to be active throughout the year and being unusually large, it may take two years to finish their life cycle.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Blue Ground Beetle is a very rare insect. It is in decline throughout Europe, and in the United Kingdom it is considered endangered. It was thought to be extinct in Britain until specimens were found in two small woodlands in 1994. By 2000 they had also been discovered at six other sites. Too much vegetation growing up in the woodlands is contributing to the loss of the habitat they need to survive, which is the reason for this beetle's decline. English Nature's Species Recovery Program is partnering with other organizations to find out more about this endangered creature. Captive breeding is helping scientists discover more about the beetle's reproductive (breeding) patterns, concentrating on the larvae and pupa stages of its life.

For more detailed information visit: www.arkive.org or www.wikipedia.org

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

What is the favorite food of the Blue Ground Beetle?

- a. Caterpillar
- b. Larvae
- c. Ants
- d. Slug

Answer is D.

