

# Insect Fact Sheet

## The Hazel Pot Beetle

The Hazel Pot Beetle is one of the rarest beetles in the UK. It was once found commonly over many counties, but has declined so much, that it is now only found in one small area of Sherwood Forest in Nottinghamshire. Despite its bright colour, the Hazel Pot Beetle is hard to find as it spends most of its adult life, at the top of Birch trees, where they feed on leaves. The males are more active fliers than the females, but only in sunny, warm weather.



Their life history is very different from most other beetles. After laying an egg, the female Hazel Pot Beetle then covers it with dung to create a 'pot'. She then drops the pot onto the floor, where it remains in the leaf litter until hatching after about two weeks.

The newly hatched larva is not much longer than 1.5mm and makes a small entrance hole at one end of its pot, through which it will feed until full grown. The

larva takes at least a year to become full grown and as it becomes larger, the larva regularly has to increase the size of its pot with its own dung.

From the egg, until the larva pupates, its whole life is spent inside the pot. During the Winter, the larva finds somewhere safe to hibernate, before emerging as an adult beetle the following Spring.

The Hazel Pot Beetle is now classed as endangered here in the UK and efforts at Sherwood Forest, have helped maintain the beetle's existing habitat. Meanwhile, unique tree top surveys counting the adult beetles, have been carried out, helping to find out more about one of our rarest insects.



### Life cycle stages

Egg



Larva



Pupa



Adult

