

Types of Fireflies

Doman Cards with Facts
by Niyati Patel

Winter firefly

- They have a lifespan of 2 years.
- They are one of the first insects to appear each spring, as early as February.
- Its most interesting feature is that although it's a firefly, and although as eggs, larvae and pupae, they have the ability to glow, the adults cannot glow or light up, except at the very start of their adulthood, when they are able to glow weakly for a few hours but then never again!



Lampyris noctiluca

- The glow worm, *Lampyris noctiluca*, is actually a beetle in the insect family Lampyridae meaning “shining ones” in Greek.
- It is the most common glow worm in Europe.
- Their larvae take up to 2-3 summers to grow into adults.

https://animaldiversity.org/accounts/Lampyris_noctiluca/



Luciolinae

- The firefly genus, *Lucinola*, is found in the temperate regions of Asia, Europe, Australia, and the Pacific Islands.
- They are among the largest subfamilies of fireflies.
- They are known for flashing their lights, which are used for mating, but create a beautiful synchrony of light-display. Tourist spots are designed to view these displays.



Photinini

- They are about $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch long.
- They produce a yellow green light.
- They are the most common fireflies in the United States.
- They can be seen from the third week in May to the third week in June.

<https://www.firefly.org/types-of-fireflies.htm> |



Microphotus

- Commonly known as the California Pink Glow-worm.
- The female adult is all pink in color.
- They are found in the southwestern parts of the United States and adjoining parts of Mexico.

<https://www2.palomar.edu/users/warmstrong/CalifPinkGlowworm.htm>



Photuris

- They are a predatory beetles.
- Fireflies of Photuris females imitate the mating flashes of the fireflies of the genus Photinus and then the unlucky Photinus males deceived by the mimics are eaten.
- They are commonly called *femme fatale lightning bugs*.



Pleotomus

- It is a rare firefly species.
- It is a nocturnal glow-worm, flightless and ground-dwelling.
- The females employ both pheromone clues as well as faint glows to attract males.

https://explorer.natureserve.org/Taxon/ELEMENT_GLOBAL.2.1215347/Pleotomus_nigripennis



Aquatica lateralis

- A species of fireflies found in Russia, Japan and Korea.
- Their larvae are aquatic and crawl at the bottom of rice paddy waters.
- Females have green, yellow or red flashes to attract males for mating.

<https://www.gbif.org/species/165395759#:~:text=Aquatica%20lateralis%2C%20known%20as%20%22heike,lateralis%20was%20sequenced%20in%202018.>



Abscondita

- They are found in south-east Asia.
- They have an orange yellow abdomen.
- They emit a glow from their entire body.



Pyractomena

- There are at least 25 species of Pyractomena firefly in North and Central America.
- Their larvae are amphibious. They feed on snails in water and on vegetation outside the water.
- When it is ready to grow into an adult, it leaves the water, and climbs up to a branch of a large tree and grows in 2-3 weeks.

