

1

Trees

Trees

Trees

3

What is growing on the deadwood?

Oak



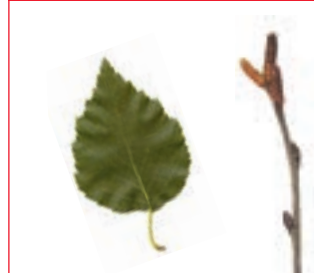
Ash



Horse chestnut



Birch



Willow



Poplar



Holly



Yew



Pine



Sycamore



Rowan



Sweet chestnut



Cherry



Alder



Lime



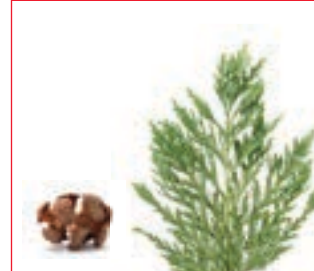
Larch



Spruce



Cypress



Maple



Hawthorn



Elder



Hazel



Blackthorn



Elm



Crab apple



Beech



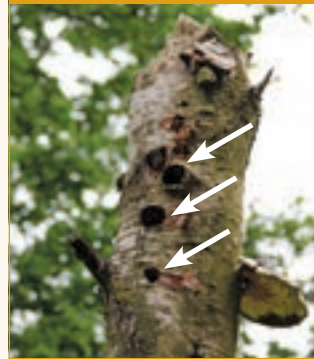
Hornbeam



2

Are there holes in the deadwood?

Holes made by birds



Holes made by insects



Other holes



Moss



Ivy



Fern



Lichen



Lichen



Lichen



Bracket fungus



Bracket fungus



Bracket fungus



Mushrooms



Mushrooms



Other fungus



4 Animals on and in the deadwood

Woodlouse
DECAY STAGE 1



14 legs. Tiny crustaceans. Up to 10mm. Some species can roll up into a ball.

Caterpillar
DECAY STAGE 1



Legs hard to see. The larvae of moths and caterpillars. May be hairy.

Longhorn beetle
DECAY STAGES 1- 3



6 legs. 5-40mm. Thin body. Very long antennae (may be longer than body).

Slug
DECAY STAGE 1



Slimy. Two pairs of tentacles that retract when touched. No shell.

Bark beetle
DECAY STAGE 1



6 legs. 5mm. Brown or black. Round body. Found just under the bark of fresh deadwood.

Ground beetle
DECAY STAGES 1-3



6 legs. 10-25mm. Black, shiny. Long thin legs. May have ridges on its back.

Snail
DECAY STAGE 1



Slimy. Two pairs of tentacles that retract when touched. Shell.

Earwig
DECAY STAGES 1-3



6 legs. 10-25mm. Black, shiny. May have ridges on its back.

Ground beetle larva
DECAY STAGES 1-3



6 legs. 10-25mm. Short legs from thorax. Abdomen with 10 segments.

Animals on and in the deadwood

Robber fly
DECAY STAGE 2



6 legs. Long legged flies. Deep groove between eyes. They hunt other insects.

Centipede
DECAY STAGE 2



More than 14 legs. Each body segment has one pair of legs. The antennae and legs are long.

Millipede
DECAY STAGE 3



More than 14 legs. Black or grey. Each body segment has two pairs of legs. The antennae and legs are short.

Ichneumon wasp
DECAY STAGE 2



6 legs. Long thin body. Large antennae. Thin waist. Pointy abdomen.

Rove beetle
DECAY STAGE 2



6 legs. Short wing covers. May raise and curl up abdomen if threatened.

Hoverfly
DECAY STAGE 3



6 legs. Large eyes. Distinctive hovering flight. Can be mistaken for wasps or bees.

Spider
DECAY STAGE 2



8 legs. Two distinct body segments: head and abdomen.

False scorpion
DECAY STAGE 2



8 legs. Very tiny arachnids. Up to 8mm. Large front 'arms' with pincers.

Mite
DECAY STAGE 3



8 legs. Very tiny round arachnids. Up to 5mm. Many different colours.

Animals on and in the deadwood

Lesser stag beetle
DECAY STAGE 3



6 legs. 15-20mm. Found either on the surface or in a small cavity deep inside.

Earthworm
DECAY STAGE 4



Bodies made up of many segments (rings). Wiggly movement.

Bird
DECAY STAGE 3



2 feathered wings and a beak.

Lesser stag beetle larva
DECAY STAGE 3



6 legs. 20mm. Orange head. Cream body and legs. Found in the middle of rotting wood.

Bat
DECAY STAGES 3-4



⚠ Please don't disturb
4 legs (2 of which are wings). Usually seen at dusk or night. Can be found inside hollow trees.

Amphibian



4 legs. Amphibians include frogs, toads and newts.

Click beetle larva
DECAY STAGE 3



Legs hard to see. 25mm. Golden brown, shiny. Segmented body.

Other mammal



4 legs. Other mammals include mice, hedgehogs, weasels, badgers and foxes.

Reptile



Reptiles include snakes, lizards and slow worms.

5 Stages of decay

Stages of decay. The different types of living things found in, on, and around the deadwood can tell us what stage of decay the deadwood is going through. It is good to have a variety of stages of decay in your woodland to encourage a variety of wildlife, and to have a stable, constant supply of nutrients going back into the soil.

DECAY STAGE 1: The tree dies



The wood is still hard. This attracts wood boring beetles, bark beetles, woodlice, ground beetles, slugs, snails and fungi.

DECAY STAGE 3: Mid decay



The wood is soft and spongy, and easily broken. Hoverflies, millipedes and mites appear. Beetle larvae hatch out deep inside.

DECAY STAGE 2: Predators arrive



The wood becomes softer. Spiders, false scorpions, ichneumon wasps, robber flies and centipedes move in.

DECAY STAGE 4: Humification



The wood is crumbly and similar to soil. Soil animals like earthworms replace deadwood-loving animals. ^{3,4}

This pack has been developed by Jess Owen, Amanda Malcolm, Dominic Hall, Graham Burns, Tim Lewis and Amy Styles. Text and concept © TCV 2019. Bracket fungi and mushroom images © Deborah Harvey. Stages of decay images © Clare Street. Tree and animal images © Dreamstime. All other images © TCV 2019. All rights reserved.