

THE PRAYING MANTIS HAS  
3 ADDITIONAL SIMPLE EYES  
(DOT-LIKE EYES).

WHAT FOR?

A: They help it orient itself  
when flying.

B: It enables it to perceive its  
environment in 3D.

C: Thanks to its dot-like eyes,  
it can also see well at night.

D: It can recognise colours  
with its dot-like eyes.



Please use  
the grey stamp!



With the eyespots on  
its wings, the **PEACOCK BUTTERFLY**  
imitates larger animals.

Please use  
the white stamp!



The **DOT-LIKE EYES** make it easier for the mantis to orient itself when flying!



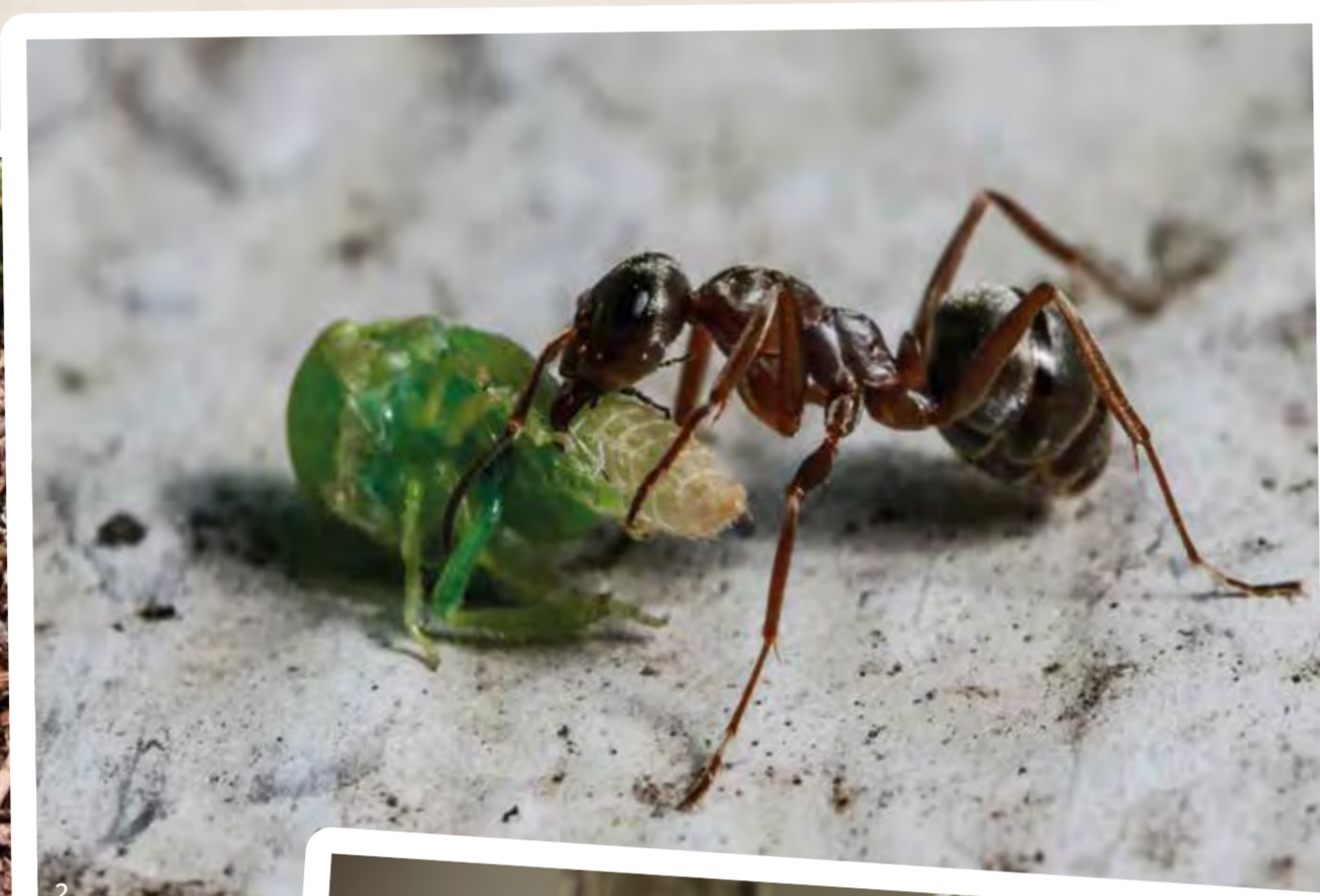
“ The praying mantis lurks motionless in the grass until a beast of prey appears in front of it. It seizes the prey and escape is impossible. If the prey is eaten, the praying mantis moves away from its raised hideout. For a safe flight, it needs its simple eyes (ocellus), also known as dot-like eyes. They help it keep its balance in the air.

”

# ON SIX LEGS



Ants often have to travel long distances to transport building materials and food to their nests.



## THE INCONSPICUOUS HELPERS OF THE FOREST

Countless ants scurry through a healthy forest. The tiny creatures take on many important tasks to keep this ecosystem intact. Their management tasks range from reducing a variety of pests, to dispersing plant seeds through to improving soil aeration.

The anthill above the ground is only a tiny part in comparison to the network of passages, tunnels and ladders under the ground. An average forest anthill accommodates a state of ants with approximately a million individuals. Such a large scale army kills off approximately ten million insects a year. Some of these insects are found as carcasses on the ground. By utilising these dead animals, the ants are making an important contribution to forest hygiene. A forest with many ants is a vital, diverse forest which can respond more effectively to sudden disturbances. Unfortunately, the anthills are becoming more and more of a rarity here in the forest.



The edge of the forest is a magical place for us insects. Here we find a broad range of different types of plant. Both the trees and the shrubs grow here in an abundance of species and are all at different stages of their development. Colourful blooms acting as a doorway to open land supplement our food supply further. A colourful variety of butterflies and other insects are attracted by them. That is why there are battalions of insects buzzing and scuttling at the edge of the forest.



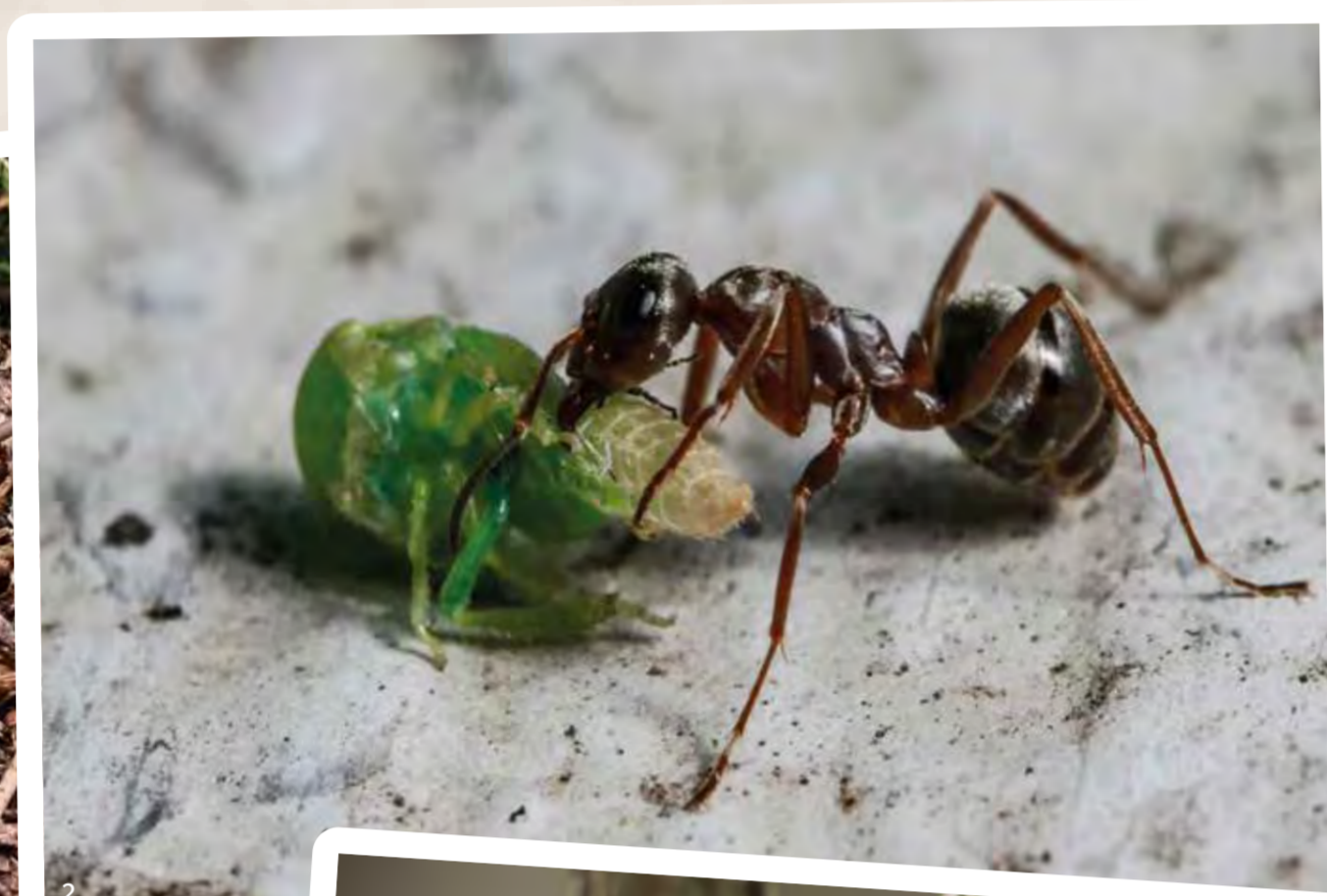
The adventure trail is a pilot investment of the VISIO project. It is realised within the framework of the INTERREG V-A, SK-AT programme and co-financed by ERDF.



# ON SIX LEGS



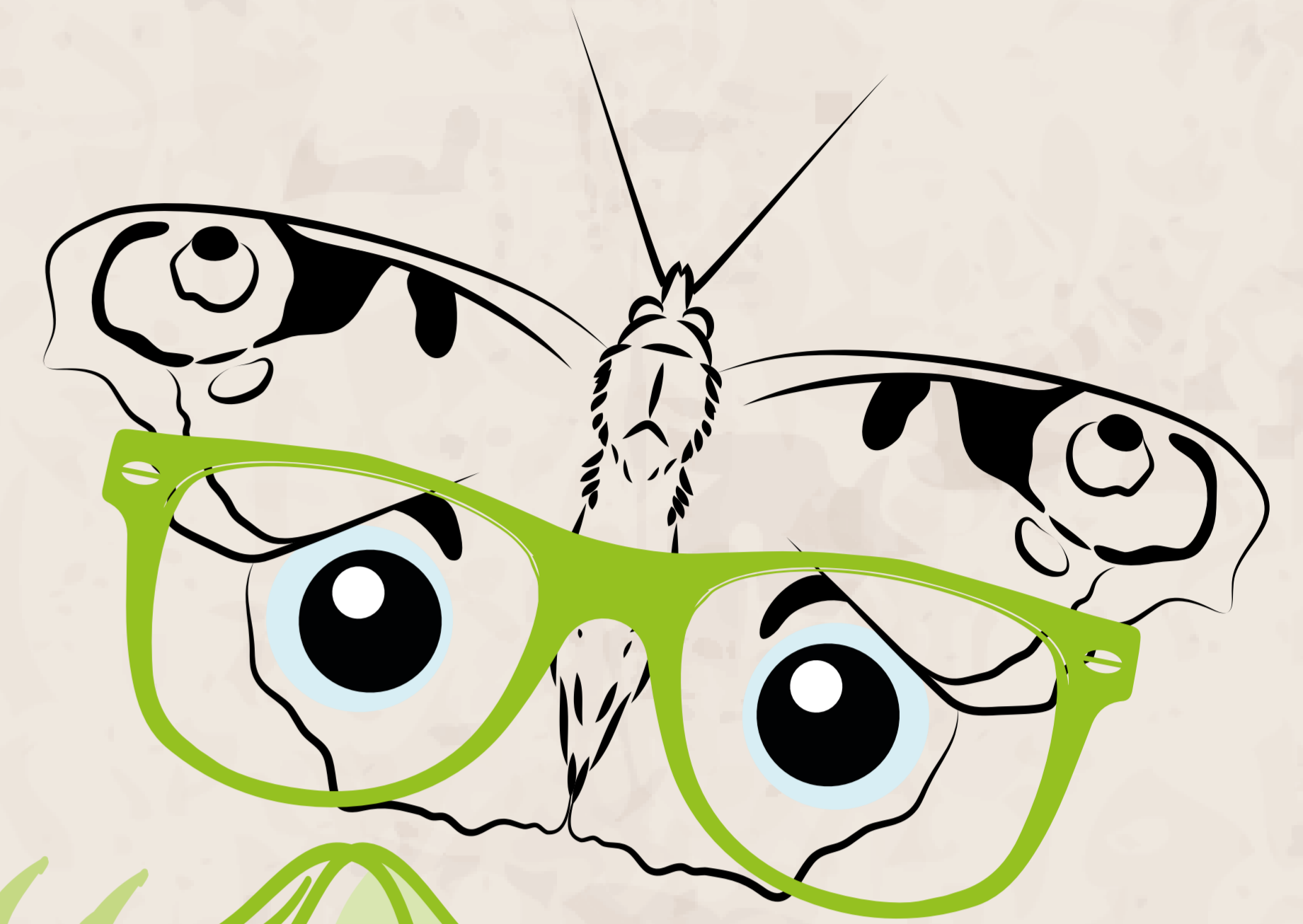
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The **HARDWOOD BUSH CRICKET** owes its name to the ovipositor of the female whose shape is reminiscent of a sabre. The female lays its eggs in the cracks of trees and deadwood. While the young sucklings live in the herbaceous layer of the soil, the adult animals can only be found high up in trees and shrubs. From here too you will hear the singing of the menfolk who try to make the females fancy them at mating time.

The **PRAYING MANTIS** sits perfectly camouflaged in the herbaceous layer of the edge of the forest. Insects such as various types of locusts, bees and wasps often recognise the impending danger too late and fly unwittingly into the arms of the lurking huntress. The praying mantis remains motionless in the grass, foliage or branches. As soon as its prey is within grabbing distance, the tentacles of the mantis dart quickly forward and there is no longer any chance of escape.

The **STAG BEETLE** values sunny, warm locations like the edge of the forest. It feeds from the sap of old trees. Its offspring feel at home in deadwood. Stag beetles can spend up to 8 years in the larval stage until they develop into adult beetles. The male larvae have a considerably larger sealed cell with pupa than the females as they need sufficient space for their large upper jaws – their antlers.

The larval foodplant of the **PEACOCK BUTTERFLY CATERPILLAR** is the stinging nettle growing at the edge of the forest. In contrast to the infants, the adult peacock butterflies are less choosy. They make their selection from 200 different nectar plants. At mating time, you can often see numerous male butterflies flying along the edge of the forest. They try to intercept a female there and to court it while in the air.



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