

Discover the Fauna of Our Campus

Golden bronze beetle (*Cetonia aurata*)

Family: Scarabaeidae

Subfamily: Cetoniinae

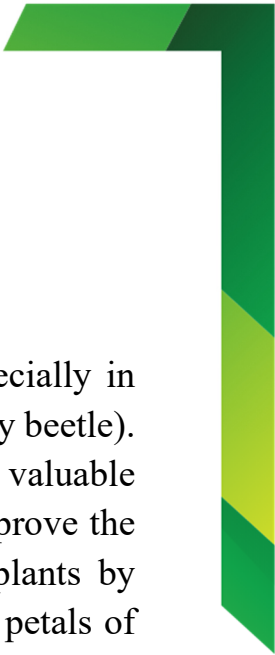

Genus: *Cetonia*

Species: Golden bronze beetle (*Cetonia aurata*)

The golden bronze beetle (*Cetonia aurata*), often known as the "green beetle" or "shiny beetle" due to its color, is one of nature's most beautiful insects. It immediately attracts attention with its bright metallic color. The most distinctive feature is the shiny, metallic green-gold upper body. Depending on the angle of light, its color can transition to copper, bronze, or purple shades. Its hard wing surfaces (elytra) have white, irregular spots and lines arranged horizontally, as if they were scratched. Its length is usually between 14–20 mm. Its body is wide and slightly flattened.



Bronze beetles have an interesting flight technique that distinguishes them from other arthropods. Ordinary beetles raise their upper wings (elytra) up and to the sides when flying. The golden bronze beetle does not raise its upper wings. It flies by removing its transparent flight wings from special slits on the sides of its upper wings. This allows it to move more aerodynamically and quickly through the air. They love sunny and warm weather. They are mainly seen on flowers from May to August. Adult insects feed on the nectar, pollen and soft petals of flowers. They especially like the flowers of roses, hips, hawthorn and fruit trees. Sometimes they also drink the sweet sap that oozes from tree trunks. Many people confuse the larvae of this insect with the harmful larvae of the May beetle, but there is a big difference



between them. The larvae live in rotten tree stumps, leaf litter and especially in compost heaps. They do not touch the roots of living plants (unlike the May beetle). On the contrary, they decompose dead plant remains, turning them into valuable fertilizer (humus). For gardeners, these larvae are "little helpers" who improve the quality of the soil. Pollination: They participate in the pollination of plants by landing from flower to flower. Sometimes in gardens they can gnaw the petals of decorative flowers (for example, white roses), spoiling their aesthetic appearance. However, in general, they are not considered a serious pest for agriculture. When picked up, this insect can sometimes secrete a special odorous liquid for self-defense, but it is completely safe for humans, it does not bite or sting.

