

Discover the Fauna of Our Campus

Long-tailed Caudate Bush-cricket (*Tettigonia caudata*)

Order: Orthoptera

Family: Katy-did / Bush-crickets (*Tettigoniidae*)

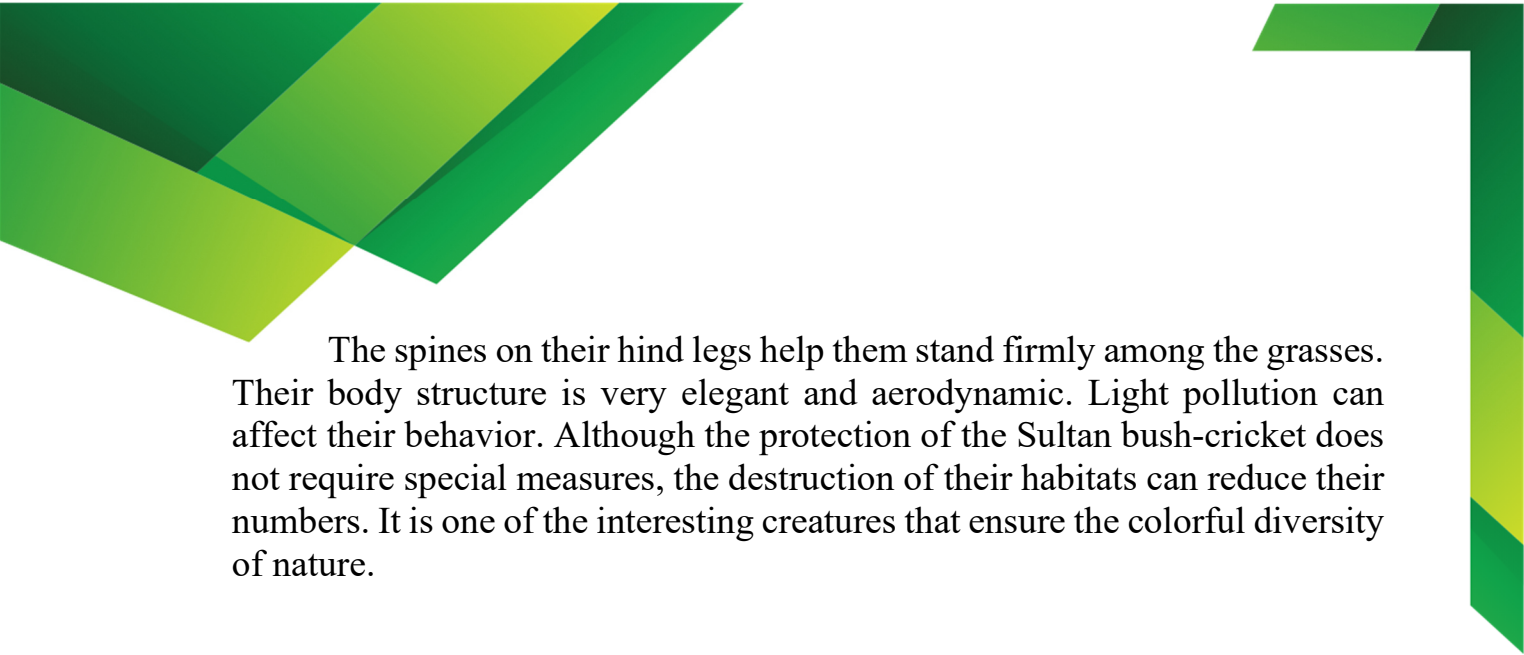
Genus: *Tettigonia*

Species: Sultan Bush-cricket (*Tettigonia caudata*)



Although the Sultan bush-cricket closely resembles the great green bush-cricket, it is distinguished by certain morphological differences. The name of this species is associated with its magnificent appearance and its long "tail" (ovipositor). It mainly lives in tall grasslands, shrublands, and along roadsides. In Azerbaijan, this species is found in both mid-mountainous and lowland areas. Its color is usually dark green, though brown shades are sometimes observed. The Sultan bush-cricket is also a predator and feeds on small invertebrates. At the same time, it can eat the leaves of agricultural plants. The sound produced by males is sharper and shorter than that of the great green bush-cricket. The ovipositor apparatus of the females is considerably longer than their bodies. They place their eggs in the deeper layers of the soil. This species loves sunny and dry places. Their jumps are very quick and fast. When they sense danger, they hide among the grass or fly away.

The Sultan bush-cricket is a biological factor that regulates the number of other insects in nature. Their life cycle is similar to other orthopterans. Larvae emerging in the spring grow throughout the summer and pass through several stages. They experience their most active period in August. Their sounds can be heard from a distance during the night hours. This cricket species is studied by entomologists as an indicator of the ecosystem. Since they do not form massive swarms, they are not considered major pests. However, they can sometimes damage plants in gardens.



The spines on their hind legs help them stand firmly among the grasses. Their body structure is very elegant and aerodynamic. Light pollution can affect their behavior. Although the protection of the Sultan bush-cricket does not require special measures, the destruction of their habitats can reduce their numbers. It is one of the interesting creatures that ensure the colorful diversity of nature.

