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Beetle Moves: Running, Flying, and Climbing



Beetles are incredible movers, and each species has its own way of getting around. Whether they are running, flying, climbing, or swimming, beetles have adapted to move efficiently in their environments.

Many beetles are excellent runners. Ground beetles, for example, are known for their speed. They can scurry quickly across the ground to chase prey or escape predators. Their long legs and lightweight bodies make them fast and agile, even on uneven surfaces like soil and rocks.

Some beetles are strong climbers. Many tree-dwelling beetles, like bark beetles, use their sharp claws to grip tree bark as they climb. These claws allow them to stay steady even on vertical surfaces. Climbing helps these beetles find food, like sap or leaves, and provides a safe place to hide from predators.

Flying is another way beetles move. Most beetles have two pairs of wings. The hard outer wings, called elytra, protect their softer inner wings. When a beetle flies, it lifts its elytra to expose the inner wings, which then flap to lift it into the air. Flying beetles, like ladybugs, use their wings to travel long distances or escape danger quickly.

Some beetles are even skilled swimmers! Water beetles, like diving beetles, have flat, paddle-like legs that help them move smoothly through water. These beetles can also trap air under their wings, allowing them to breathe underwater as they search for food or hide from predators.

Beetles move with purpose. Whether they are chasing prey, avoiding predators, or finding food, their movement helps them survive. Each beetle species has special adaptations that make it a master of its environment. From running across the ground to gliding through the water, beetles show how movement can take many forms in the insect world.