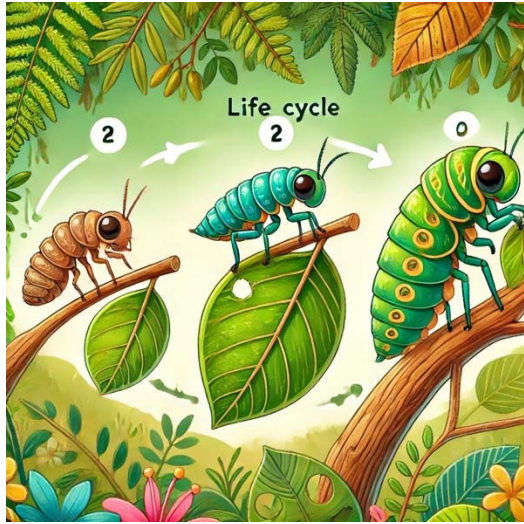


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The Life Cycle of a Walking Leaf

The walking leaf, also known as the leaf insect, has a fascinating life cycle. From the moment it hatches to its life as an adult, this insect goes through several stages, each essential to its survival and development.

Stage 1: Egg

The life cycle of a walking leaf begins with an egg. Female walking leaves lay their eggs on the ground or attach them to plants. The eggs are tiny and resemble seeds, which helps protect them from predators. The eggs take about three to six months to hatch, depending on the temperature and humidity of their environment.

Stage 2: Nymph

When the eggs hatch, tiny nymphs emerge. These young walking leaves look like miniature versions of adults, but they are not fully developed. Nymphs lack the detailed coloring and patterns that adults have, which they develop as they grow. At this stage, they are very vulnerable to predators, so they rely on their camouflage to stay hidden. Nymphs spend most of their time eating leaves and molting, or shedding their outer skin, as they grow larger.

Stage 3: Adult

After several molts, the nymphs become fully grown adults. Adult walking leaves are larger, with detailed patterns and colors that make them look just like real leaves. These adaptations help them blend into their surroundings and avoid predators. Adults are ready to reproduce, continuing the life cycle. Female walking leaves typically live longer than males because they need more time to lay eggs and ensure the survival of the next generation.

How Long Do They Live?

Walking leaves live for about 6 to 12 months, depending on their species and environment. While their lives may seem short, they are perfectly adapted to their role in the ecosystem. Every stage of their life cycle helps ensure their survival and the continuation of their species.

The life cycle of a walking leaf is an excellent example of how nature creates unique ways for animals to adapt and thrive.