

**Meet Natasha, the travelling entomologist! She loves insects, and would like to share her wisdom with you!**



Ento-Club is funded by the Royal Entomological Society

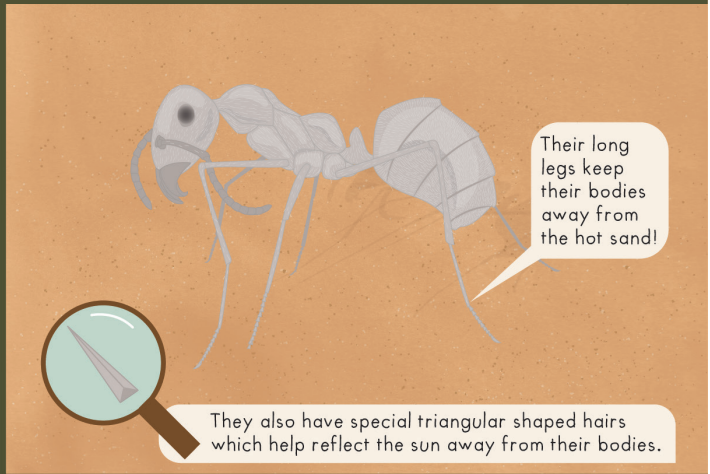
## SOMEWHERE IN THE SAHARA DESERT...



Wow! 40°C. Even the lizards have taken cover. Perfect timing to spot the Saharan Silver Ant!

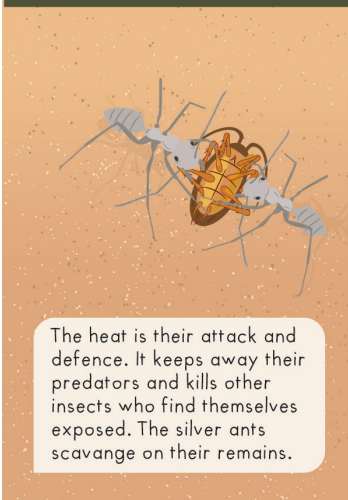


Ah! Found a nest of Saharan Silver Ants. Just what I was looking for. They come out during the hottest time of day.



Their long legs keep their bodies away from the hot sand!

They also have special triangular shaped hairs which help reflect the sun away from their bodies.



The heat is their attack and defence. It keeps away their predators and kills other insects who find themselves exposed. The silver ants scavenge on their remains.



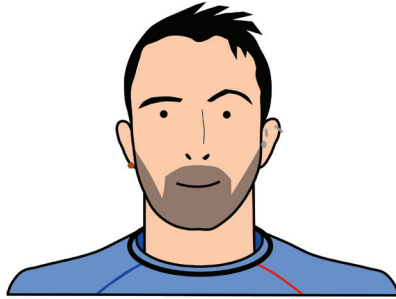
Ah! It's getting too hot now. Even for the Silver Ants!



These ants are pretty cool, but I'm getting pretty hot! Time to go!

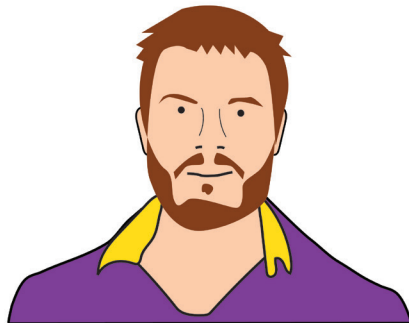
**Ento-Club brought to you by:**

**TOM**



I am fascinated by patterns in insect diversity! Most of my research looks at ants. Where I grew up in south Wales, there are only 3 different ant species. In the UK there are over 40! Where I now work, in the Drakensberg Mountains of southern Africa, there are over 90 species in a single valley! My experiments look at how ants cope with different temperatures along mountain ranges so that we can try to understand these big differences in species diversity across the world.

**RUDI**



The worldwide diversity of insects is astounding and new species are being discovered every year! I am interested in the evolution of new insect species and I use flies to understand the genetic processes that cause one species to split into two. I am also interested in entomophagy, which means studying how people use insects as food. The diversity of insects that are used as food and examining the nutritional quality of different species is a particular focus of my research.