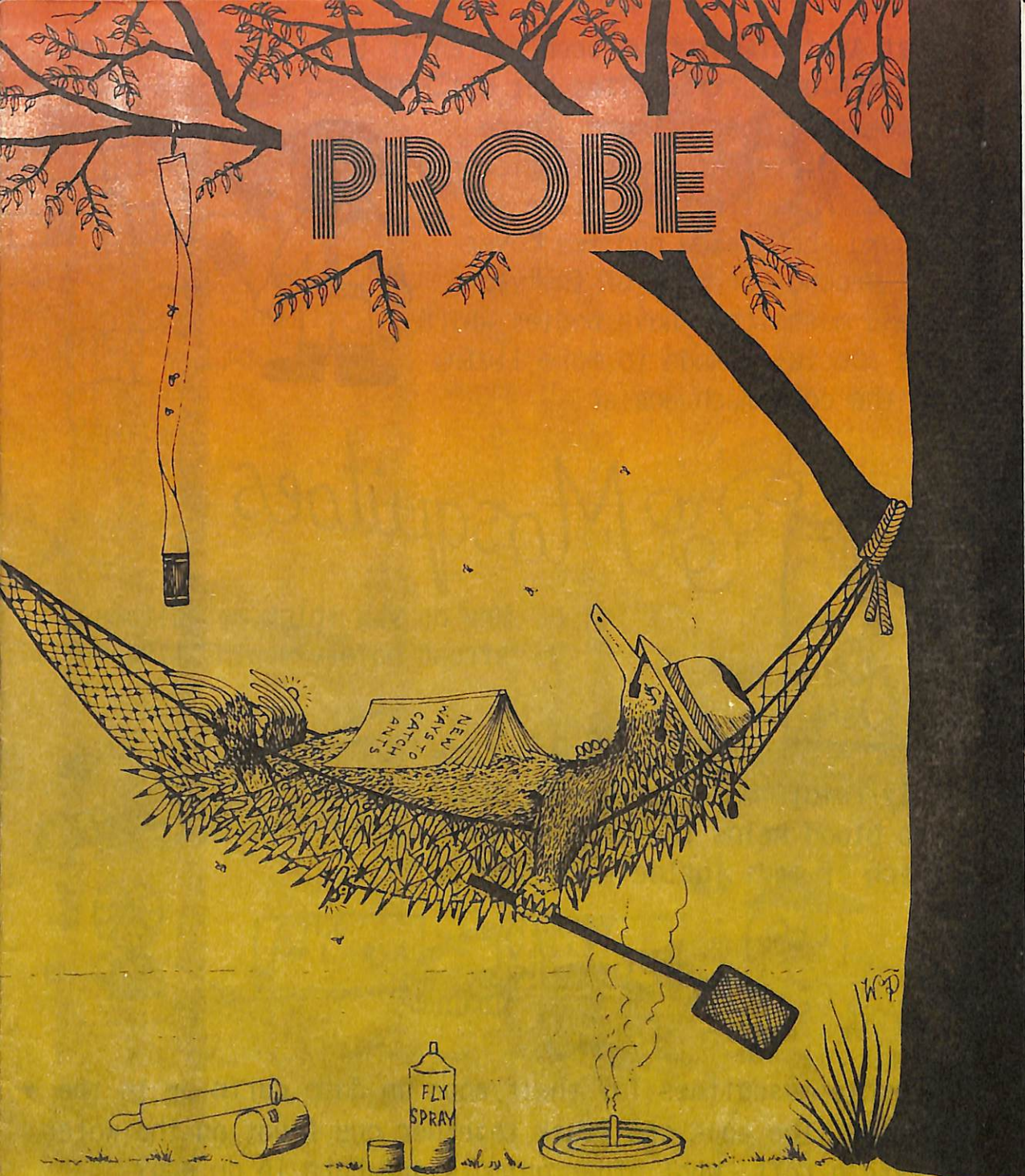


PROBE



Volume 6

No. 1 MARCH 1980

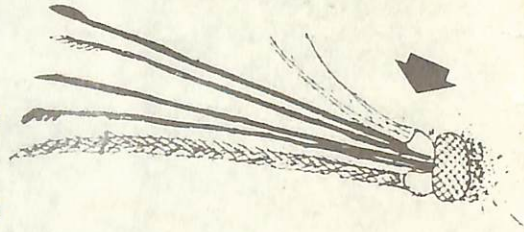
Most Australians have been bitten at least once by these small bloodsucking flies. Not all mosquitoes are the same. There are 73 different types in Victoria alone. Mosquitoes even live in Alaska where snow and ice cover the ground for most of the year. These mosquitoes have bodies which are specially made to make living in the cold much easier.



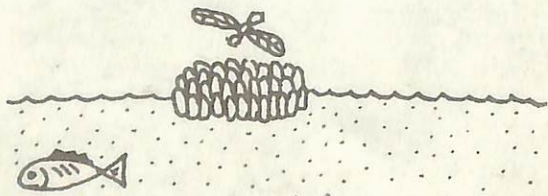
KILL'EM NOW Mosquitoes



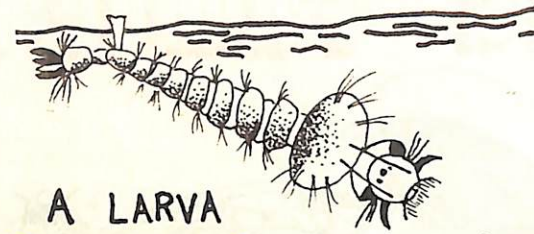
Why do you think mosquitoes have strong pointy mouths like this?



Only female mosquitoes suck blood. The blood helps them grow a new batch of eggs inside their bodies.

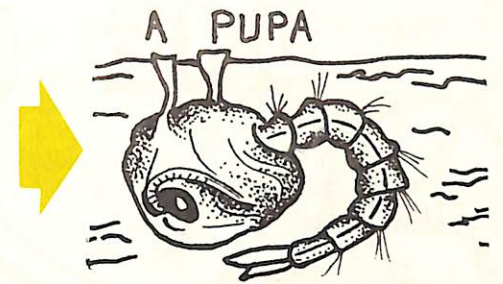


Female mosquitoes lay their eggs on damp earth or in the water. The eggs are stuck together and float on the water like a raft. What other animals are born in an egg?



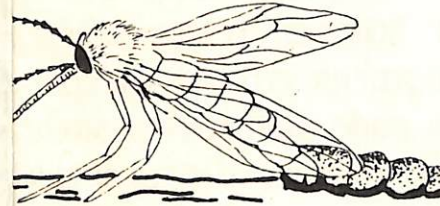
A LARVA

After the baby mosquitoes inside have grown enough, the eggs hatch. The tiny wriggly creatures which come out do not look at all like grown-up mosquitoes. They are called larvae. Larvae live under the water where their bodies keep growing and changing.

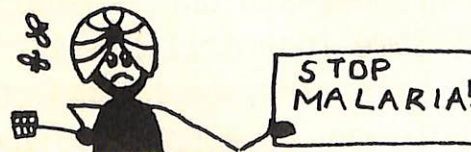


A PUPA

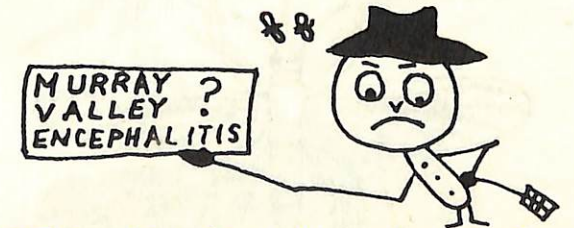
The baby mosquitoes change from larvae into pupae. After 3 to 5 days the pupae breaks open and an adult mosquito squeezes out, dries his wings and gets ready for action.



Humans (whatever they are) and mosquitoes do not live together very happily. The bite from some mosquitoes can make people very sick. In India (where's that?) 50 million people suffer from the sickness malaria each year.



FOR THE THINKERS

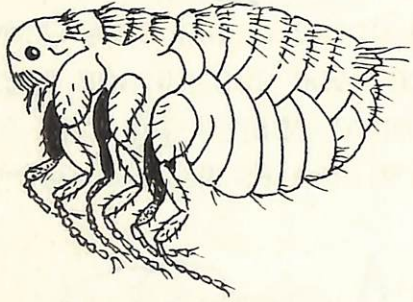


Look at the mouths of other animals. How does the shape of an animal's mouth make its life easier?

What other animals change their shape as they are growing up? How has your body changed in the last 7 or 8 years?

ONE BIG FAMILY?

a flea

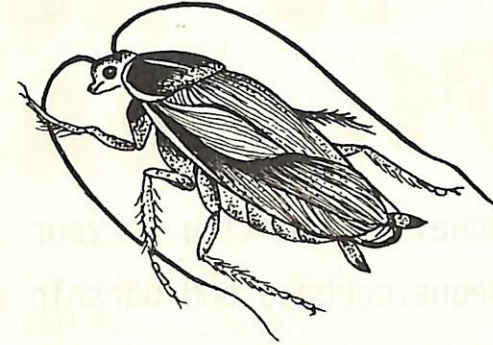


a ladybird

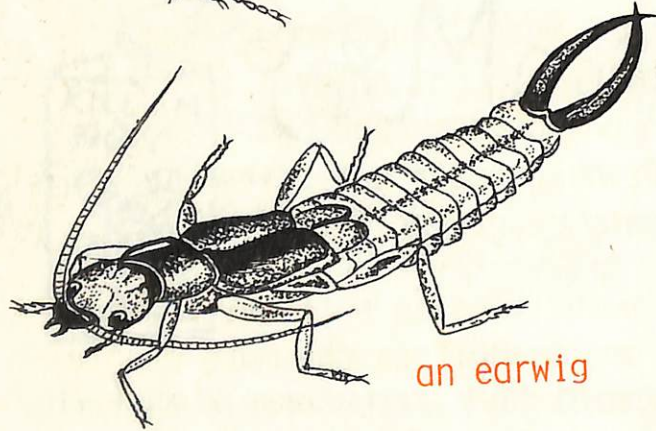
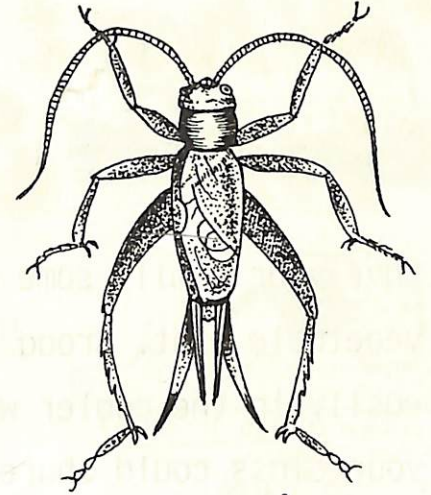


a cicada

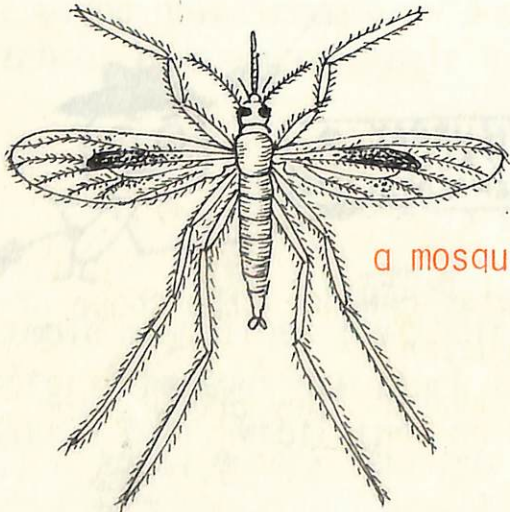
a cockroach



a field cricket



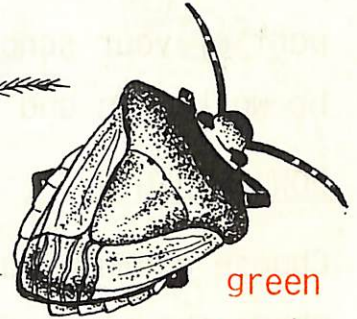
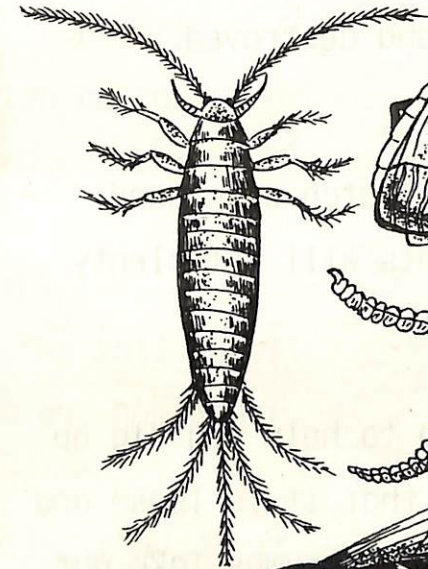
an earwig



a mosquito

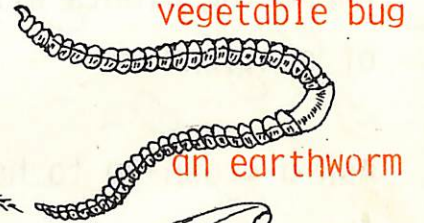
Sometimes its easy to forget that we share our home environment with thousands of little creatures called insects. Because their bodies are made in special ways, insects are able to live in many different places. Look for the insects on this page at home and you'll find them in the most surprising places. Don't forget that spiders are not insects and should not be disturbed. There are other poisonous spiders in Australia beside the well known funnel-web and red-back spiders. Some insects, like silverfish, live on the belongings of humans and are unwelcome visitors in any home. Have a look around your home environment and make a list of all the ways humans try to control the insects around them. Can you think of any insects which help the people who share their environment?

a silverfish



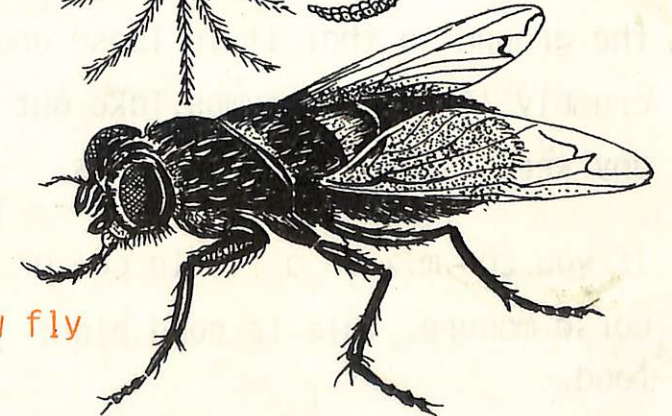
green

vegetable bug



an earthworm

a blow fly



What to do in March...

Save your family some money by starting up your own vegetable plot. Broad beans, cabbage and parsnip grow easily in the cooler weather of autumn and winter. Perhaps your class could share a small vegetable plot in a safe part of your schoolground where the young plants would not be walked on and destroyed.

HOW TO BEGIN

Choose a small patch of ground where the plants will get plenty of sunlight.

Ask a grown-up to help you dig up the ground so that it is loose and crumbly like breadcrumbs. Take out any weeds, stones or old leaves.

If you can, mix in a little cow or horse manure. This is good plant food.



THEN

Wait for 2 weeks if you have put in some manure or it may kill your young plants. Make sure your dirt is still crumbly.



Use a watering can to water the plot the day before you are ready to plant the seeds you have chosen.



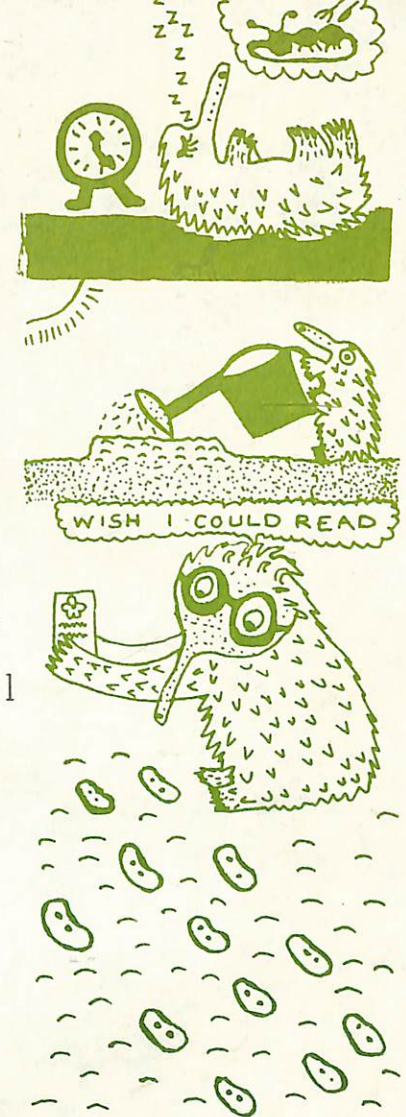
Ask a grown-up to help you to sow the seeds. It is very important to read the back of the seed packet. The seeds will not grow if they are planted too deep in the ground or too close together.

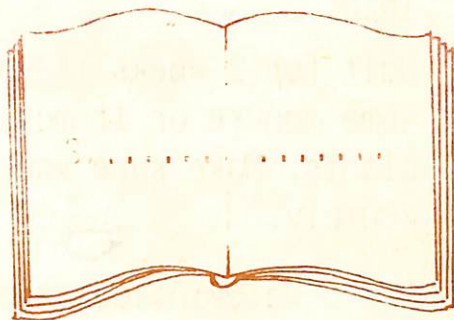


Sow the seeds in straight rows, cover with dirt and then pat the soil above them so that it is firm and no longer crumbly.

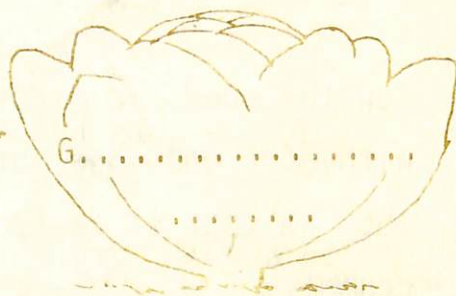
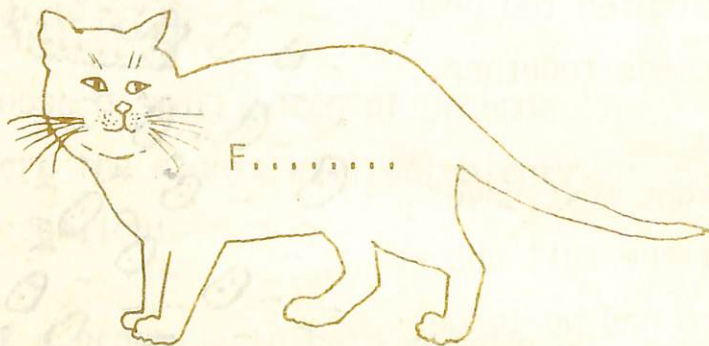
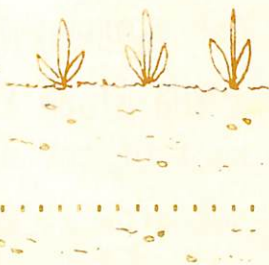


Now water the soil gently until it is wet but not muddy. Do this every day. Perhaps you could make a plant diary. Watch your plants closely each day and write about the changes you see happening. Do any insects like to live on or near your plants? Do all your plants grow in the same way? Good luck!





Re-read the middle page
about insects. See if you
can write the name of the
insect inside his home.



Text by Debra Brydon
Artists this month were
Debra Brydon and
Wilma Prohasky.

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