

Wonders of GOD'S Creation

The Trees and the Bees

Just touching an iron cross blister beetle can give you (you guessed it!) painful blisters. If ingested in large enough quantities, the blister beetle's toxins are deadly to both humans and livestock—although dermatologists have found the toxin useful in removing warts.

What's really amazing about these insects is the design of their complex and interdependent life cycle.

Iron cross blister beetles rely on specific trees and bees to reproduce. Female beetles lay their eggs on budding palo verde trees, then die. When native ground bees arrive to pollinate the newly opened flowers, the newly hatched larvae hitch a ride back to the nest. As the beetle larvae grow and develop, they consume the bee offspring and the resources stored in the nest and emerge next spring as adults.

Take away the trees, take away the bees, and you take away the beetles too. Every new generation of blister beetle depends on the complex interaction between these three different elements of the ecosystem.

One of the greatest wonders of God's creation is how everything comes together to form a functioning whole.

Pictured: iron cross blister beetle (*Tegrodera aloga*)

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