

## Insects on the Move

A grasshopper can jump a distance of more than 20 times the length of its body! That means a 2-inch grasshopper can jump more than 3 feet!

### Amazing Insects

These insects take the prize for their athletic abilities. Some are expert runners, swimmers, or fliers. Others can jump very far or even do acrobatics. They can really move!

The **dragonfly** is one of the fastest flying insects. Some dragonflies can reach 35 miles per hour. This insect is also acrobatic. It can fly backward and turn around quickly. It can also **hover**, or hang, in the air.



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The record for longest insect flight goes to the **monarch butterfly**. Each fall, millions of monarch butterflies from North America spread their wings and fly more than 2,000 miles to forests in Mexico.



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*Diving Beetle*

The **diving beetle** is an expert swimmer. When it is above water, the bubble on its back fills with air. That lets the beetle breathe underwater. As it swims, the bubble refills with oxygen taken from the water.

A favorite to win the long jump contest is the flea. This tiny insect (the size of a pinhead) can jump a distance of 150 times the length of its body. When a flea bends its legs, its rubbery knees spring back, and off it goes!

The **Australian tiger beetle** is one of the fastest running insects. This long-legged beetle can reach speeds of 5 ½ miles per hour. The beetle's speed comes in handy when it is chasing other insects to eat.