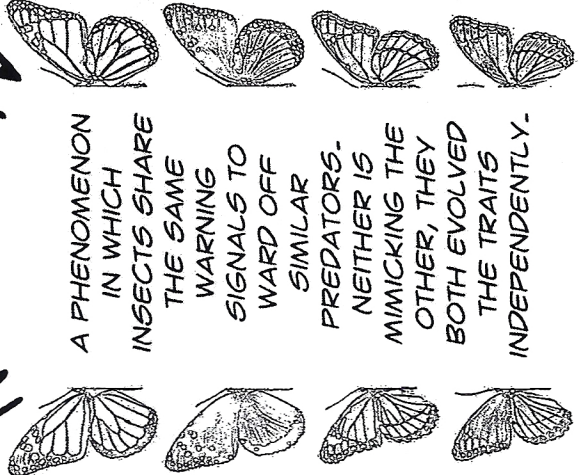


HERE WE HAVE A CASE IN WHICH INSECTS MAY MIMIC ANOTHER IN ORDER TO EXPLOIT SOME OF THEIR RESOURCES. THIS COULD MEAN THEIR FOOD, HOMES, OR EVEN MATES! FIREFLIES, FOR EXAMPLE, HAVE SPECIFIC LIGHT PATTERNS TO ATTRACT MATES OF THEIR OWN SPECIES. SOMETIMES, FEMALE FIREFLIES LEARN TO RESPOND TO THE MATING SIGNALS OF ANOTHER SPECIES IN ORDER TO LURE THEM IN AND TURN THEM INTO DINNER!

# A GOTTEN

**MÜLLERIAN**

A PHENOMENON IN WHICH INSECTS SHARE THE SAME WARNING SIGNALS TO WARD OFF SIMILAR PREDATORS. NEITHER IS MIMICKING THE OTHER, THEY BOTH EVOLVED THE TRAITS INDEPENDENTLY.



THIS TYPE OF MIMICRY HAS TWO PARTS, A MODEL AND A MIMIC. ONE INSECT ADOPTS THE CHARACTERISTICS OF ANOTHER, MORE DANGEROUS OR LESS APPETIZING INSECT IN ORDER TO PROTECT ITSELF FROM PREDATORS. UPON FIRST GLANCE, THIS LITTLE GUY MAY LOOK LIKE AN ANT, BUT CHECK HIM OUT—HE'S GOT EIGHT LEGS! THAT'S A SPIDER IN DISGUISE!

# BATESIAN

ON THE MEAN STREETS OF THE INSECT WORLD, CRITTERS HAVE TO DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO STAY ALIVE. SOMETIMES THAT MEANS DRESSING UP OR ACTING LIKE SOMETHING OR SOMEONE ELSE FOR PROTECTION OR FOR PREDATION. THIS IS CALLED, INSECT MIMICRY, AND IT COMES IN THREE FLAVORS:

- BATESIAN**
- MÜLLERIAN**
- AGGRESSIVE**

# SOME REAL WORLD EXAMPLES

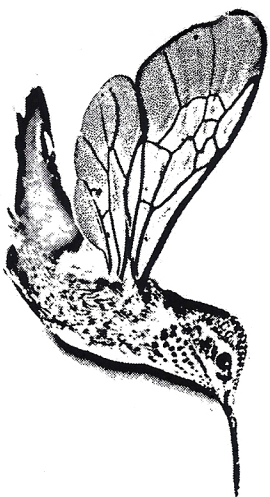
- THE ROBBER FLY RESEMBLES THE BUMBLE BEE
- THE ASH BORER MIMICS THE COMMON WASP
- MONARCH & VICEROY BUTTERFLIES SHARE SIMILAR WARNING SIGNS ON THEIR WINGS
- IN MRS. DOUBTFIRE, ROBBIN WILLIAMS IMPERSONATES A WOMAN IN ORDER TO...OH WAIT, THAT DOESN'T BELONG HERE, AT ALL.

# SO,

BEFORE YOU PEE YOUR PANTS THE NEXT TIME YOU SEE A SCRAY LOOKIN' SNAKE, REMEMBER:



IF IT WALKS LIKE A SNAKE, TALKS LIKE A SNAKE, AND SMELLS LIKE A SNAKE, WELL, IT JUST MIGHT BE A CLEVER LITTLE CATERPILLARI!



IT'S A BIRD,  
IT'S A BEE...

IT'S  
INSECT  
MIMICRY!

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