

by Mellisa Hoffman

BOMBARDIER BEETLES

Beetles are everywhere! In fact, they make up 40 percent of all the insects in the world. Most of them aren't very interesting; they are just pests that annoy us, crawling around in our homes, or eating the plants in our gardens. However, there is one particular beetle that's worth taking a look at, and it's called the bombardier beetle. Now, in case you don't know, a bombardier throws bombs, so with a name like that, you can be sure that this beetle is dangerous!

Because of its ability to throw "bombs," this little powerhouse of a beetle is remarkable. When the bombardier beetle feels threatened, it defends itself by releasing two different chemicals that are stored in two separate chambers inside its body. When these two chemicals are mixed together, a poisonous spray is formed that is almost hot enough to boil. The beetle will then release the spray, covering the attacker with a hot, foul-smelling, deadly liquid and vapor.

Although painful to humans, the spray is not deadly. Many insects, however, don't stand a chance, especially since the only warning a bombardier gives is a popping sound right before it sprays. It has an incredibly accurate aim, can swivel almost all the way around, and it doesn't just spray once—it sprays about 500 times per second!

Our Heavenly Father has equipped us with a "bomb" of our own, and it's called confidence. Not confidence in anything we can do ourselves. No! Instead, it's the confidence that we have in Him. Confidence in Jesus is power—it wins battles, and it is what is going to win the war against our enemy. The Bible even says in Hebrews 4:16 that we should approach God's throne with confidence! So, don't be afraid of the trials, temptations, and challenges the devil is going to throw in the way. Go forward with boldness, because Jesus has already promised the victory! ☺

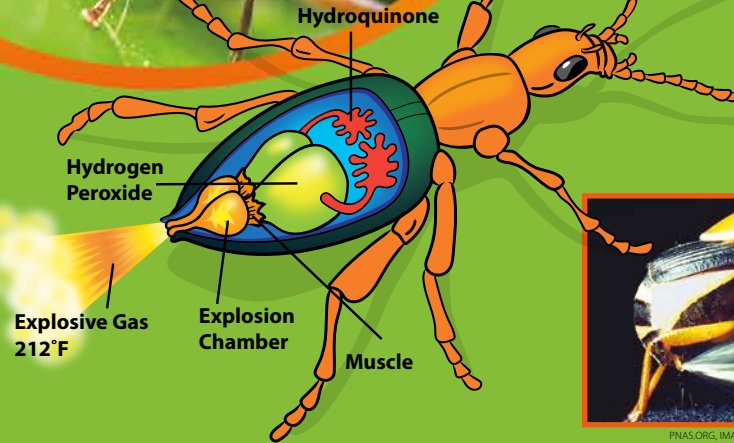


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Bombardier beetles are usually less than an inch in length.

Philippians 1:6 "Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ."

The chemicals hydroquinone and hydrogen peroxide combine within the beetle's body. Special muscles release this combination into the explosion chamber where it is mixed with enzymes that cause the explosion.



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COMBINATION STATION

Combine one word from the group on the left with one word from the group on the right to form a compound word. Hint: All words can be found in the Bible.

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|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Rain | Hail | Vine | Foot | comb | drop | mark |
| Sea | Honey | Jaw | Roof | day | shore | dream |
| Rain | Land | Day | Birth | shine | yard | top |
| Heart | Sun | Court | | beat | bone | stone |
| | | | | steps | bow | |

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 10. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 12. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 13. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 14. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 15. _____ |
| 8. _____ | |

