

Cicadas: A Symbol of Japanese Summer

【References】

Bun-ichi Sogo Shuppan, *Nihon no Konchū* 1400, Vol. 1
 Bun-ichi Sogo Shuppan, *Nihon no Konchū* 1400, Vol. 2
 Shogakukan, *Shogakukan Illustrated Book NEO: Insects*
 KADOKAWA, *Sugosugiru Mijika na Konchū no Zukan*

shaa-shaa



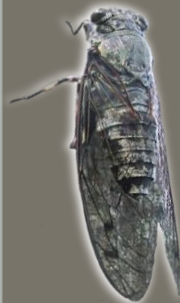
Kumazemi
(Cryptotympana facialis)
 Size 60~70mm

jii-jiri-jiri



Aburazemi
(Graptopsaltria nigrofuscata)
 Size 53~60mm

min-min-min



Minmin-zemi
(Hyalessa maculaticollis)
 Size 55~63mm

Chii



Niinii-zemi
(Platypleura kaempferi)
 Size 32~40mm

tsuku-tsuku-boshi



Tsukutsukuboshi
(Meimuna opalifera)
 Size 41~47mm

kana-kana



Higurashi
(Tanna japonensis)
 Size 41~50mm

Has a raised back.



3rd antennal segment:
 about 1.5× larger than
 the 2nd segment



2nd and 3rd antennal
 segments are the same
 size.



Mud-covered exuvia



Has a flat back.



4rd antennal segment:
 about 1.5× larger than
 the 3rd segment

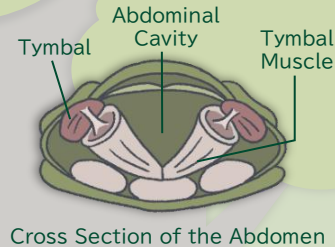


Exuvia

Discover the Secrets of Cicadas!

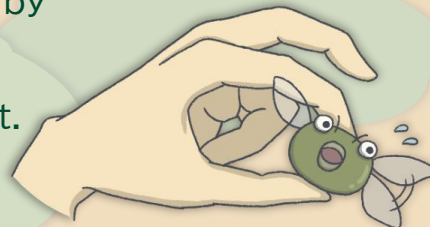
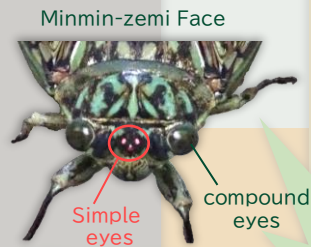
How Do Cicadas Sing?

Only male cicadas sing. They sing to attract female cicadas. Cicadas do not use their mouths to make sounds. Instead, they vibrate a special membrane in their abdomen called a tymbal. The male's hollow abdomen helps make the sound louder.



Cicadas Have Many Eyes!

Besides their two compound eyes, cicadas have three simple eyes arranged in a triangle. The compound eyes help them see shapes and movement, while the simple eyes detect light. When a cicada is tilted, its simple eyes sense differences in light and help it maintain balance by moving its wings. These simple eyes play an important role in stable flight.



Cicadas Pee a Lot!

When startled, cicadas sometimes pee as they prepare to fly away. They do not do this on purpose. Because tree sap is mostly water, cicadas must drink a lot of it to get enough nutrients. As a result, they produce a lot of pee. Don't worry—their pee is almost entirely water!



Cicada Emergence

Female cicadas lay their eggs in tree trunks. After hatching, the nymphs live underground for several years.

When fully grown, they emerge at night and molt into adults. Their wings harden within a few hours, and they are soon ready to fly.



Photo: Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden, 2025