Identification Guide for Harlequin Ladybird and Common British Ladybirds

Harlequin ladybird (Harmonia axyridis):

- Size and shape: large (6 8mm long), quite round and domed
- Elytra (wing case) colour: pale yellow-orange, orange-red, red or black; highly variable
- **Spots:** 0 21 orange-red or black spots, or grid pattern; highly variable
- Most common forms in UK: orange with 15 21 black spots; black with 2 or 4 orange or red spots
- **Pronotum pattern:** white or cream with up to 5 spots or fused lateral spots forming 2 curved lines, M-shaped mark or solid trapezoid. (The pronotum is the top of the section between head and wing cases.)
- Other characteristics: wing cases with wide keel at back; legs almost always brown

Three common colour variants of the harlequin ladybird (all the same species)







Ladybird
Size Guide
(see lengths by each picture below)

Below are some native British species The notes are to help distinguish native species from the harlequin



Eyed ladybird
7 - 8.5mm (similar size to harlequin)
Commonly 15 black spots
Black legs



Striped ladybird
6 - 8mm (similar size to harlequin)
Chestnut colour with cream stripes &
spots



7-spot ladybird
5 – 8mm (similar size to harlequin)
Exactly 7 black spots
Most commonly seen ladybird



Cream-streaked ladybird
5 – 6mm (similar size to small harlequin)
4 or 16 black spots
Cream streaks



Orange ladybird
4.5 – 6mm (similar size to small harlequin)
Orange
12 or 16 white spots



2-spot ladybird
4 – 5mm (smaller than harlequin)
Very variable – red with 2 black spots or black with 2, 4, or 6 red spots
Very common ladybird
Black legs



Cream-spot ladybird
4 – 5mm (smaller than harlequin)
Maroon-brown with exactly 14
cream spots



Kidney-spot ladybird
4 – 5mm (smaller than harlequin)
Black with 2 red spots
Round with pronounced rim
around edge of wing cases



Pine ladybird
3 – 4.5mm (much smaller than harlequin)
Black with 4 red spots
Round with pronounced rim around edge of wing cases



10-spot ladybird
3.5 – 4.5mm (much smaller than harlequin)
Very variable in colour & spot number Pale legs



3.5 – 4.5mm (much smaller than harlequin)
Commonly 14 spots, but variable and spots often fused
Yellow with black spots or black with yellow spots



22-spot ladybird
3 – 4mm (much smaller than
harlequin)
20 or 22 spots
Yellow with black spots