

## Carausius (Stick insect)

### Classification :

Kingdom : Animalia  
Phylum : Arthropoda  
Class : Insecta  
Order : Phasmatodea  
Family : Lonchodidae  
Genus : Carausius



For further details, [Link](#)

### Characteristics :

- Carausius stick insects are slow-moving, twig-like insects known for camouflage, nocturnal habits, and parthenogenetic reproduction. They are a common laboratory and pet species, with *Carausius morosus* originating from India.
- They are ability to change color, their defensive blood-spraying behaviour, and their ecological importance as a food source and agricultural pest.

### Appearance

- **Body:** Elongated, cylindrical, and twig-like, with a French bean shape.
- **Color:** Varies from dull green to shades of brown, sometimes with darker mottling.
- **Forelegs:** Adult females display bright red patches at the base of their forelegs, a distinctive feature.
- **Antennae:** Medium-length.

### Reproduction

- **Parthenogenesis:** Females often reproduce asexually, meaning they can lay eggs that develop into offspring without fertilization by a male.
- **Eggs:** Small, round, brown eggs with a yellow knob (or capitulum) are dropped to the ground.

- **Life Cycle:** After several months, nymphs hatch from the eggs. They then undergo several molts over several months to reach maturity.

### Defense Mechanisms

- **Mimicry:** Their stick-like form and coloration provide excellent camouflage, making them difficult for predators to spot.
- **Motion:** They can remain motionless for extended periods or sway from side to side, mimicking a twig in the wind.
- **Falling:** When threatened, they may drop to the ground to hide.
- **Fluid Secretion:** Some species may emit fluid from their mouthparts when disturbed.

### Habit (Behavior)

- **Nocturnal:** Carausius stick insects are most active at night. During the day, they remain motionless, relying on their camouflage for protection.
- **Twig Mimicry:** They have evolved to resemble twigs, allowing them to blend in with their surroundings. When disturbed, they may sway to enhance this mimicry or drop to the ground to escape.
- **Herbivorous Diet:** These insects are herbivores and feed on leaves. For *C. morosus*, common host plants include raspberry, bramble, and hawthorn.

### Habitat

- **Forests and Woodlands:** Carausius species are found in tropical and subtropical forests, grasslands, and woodlands.
- **Moist and Humid Conditions:** They prefer moist, humid environments, and their activity can be enhanced after rain.
- **Host Plants:** Their habitat is directly tied to the presence of suitable host plants on which they feed and live.

### Geographic Origin:

- The common Indian stick insect (*Carausius morosus*) originates from Tamil Nadu, India. Other Carausius species, like *C. scotti*, are found in specific island locations, such as Silhouette Island in the Seychelles.