

CICADAS

HEMIPTERA: CICADIDAE
20+ species in SC!

Did you know? Cicadas can be separated into two groups: annual (which emerge every year), and periodical (which emerge every 13 or 17 years)! Periodical cicadas are unique to eastern North America—in South Carolina, the genus *Magicicada* appears once every 13 years.

Did you know? The brown husks you see on trees during summer are the exoskeletons of cicada nymphs! The adult insect sheds the nymph's exoskeleton and emerges. It's soft and vulnerable at first—we call this stage "teneral".

Did you know? Only male cicadas make sound! The buzzing noises they make are mating calls to attract females.

Look and see!



The wings of a cicada are membranous and see-through. The dark lines are veins!



The split down the back is referred to as the ecdysial suture—it's where the adult emerged!

The forelegs of cicada nymphs have broadened tibiae in order to dig through the ground!



Periodical cicadas in the genus *Magicicada* are typically black and orange, in contrast to green and brown!



Credits:

Photos: Nikolai Artley (inaturalist.org/people/cicada-sunspot), exuvia and live adult; Even Dankowitz (inaturalist.org/people/edanko), *Magicicada*

Facts: Wikipedia (wikipedia.org); Cicada Mania (cicadamania.com)

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