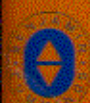




The insect featured on the front cover of *Essential Biology* is the "scarce copper" butterfly (*Heodes virgaureae*). Native to northern and central Europe, this butterfly can usually be found during warm summer days feeding on the nectar of meadow flowers. Like all butterflies, the scarce copper undergoes an astonishing change in appearance during its life cycle. Upon hatching from an egg, the scarce copper begins life as a caterpillar (larva). As it grows, the caterpillar molts, each time replacing its outermost layer with a new, larger one. After several molts, the caterpillar becomes an immobile pupa. Although the pupa appears dormant, it is undergoing a startling metamorphosis: larval organs are breaking down and adult organs are developing from cells that were dormant in the larva. Weeks later, a butterfly, such as the one shown on the cover, emerges. The complex life cycle of the scarce copper butterfly is one of countless fascinating stories that unfold daily in the living world around us. *Essential Biology* will help you understand the science behind such stories and deepen your appreciation of the natural world.



ARSON
jamin
mmings

www.aw.com/bc

