



Be careful of insect bites!

The number of bite/sting injury cases from bees, tea tussock moths, and blackflies in the spring to summer seasons increases rapidly each year on the Gifu University campus. Although Gifu University makes an effort to exterminate these insects for students' safety, it is important to be cautious to avoid insect bites or stings, especially when you work outdoors.



2. Tea tussock moth

Larvae of tea tussock moths, so-called caterpillars, are generated twice a year in April and September, and they swarm around the underside of the leaves of plants such as camellia and sasanqua. The tea tussock moth's body is covered with stingers that can cause contact dermatitis. This can also be induced by free-floating stingers under trees or leaves, even if you don't touch a caterpillar.

Clinical symptoms

Generally, no symptoms develop immediately after touching the caterpillar or stingers, but an intensely itchy red rash can develop after a few hours.

If you have touched the caterpillar...

- (1) Do not rub or scratch the affected area, because this can worsen the condition.
- (2) Remove stingers by applying adhesive tape to the affected area, then wash in running water without rubbing.
- (3) Apply topical steroids to the affected area.

★ If the affected area is widespread or develops blisters, please consult a dermatologist.

★ If eyes are affected, flush with water and consult an ophthalmologist.



Picture 1

1. Blackfly

Blackflies are black insects resembling small flies, 2-4 mm long.

Clinical symptoms

Generally, no symptoms develop immediately after receiving a blackfly bite. However, after approximately 12 hours, the bitten area becomes red, swollen, and extremely itchy.

If you have received a blackfly bite...

- (1) Apply an anti-itch cream or topical steroids to the affected area.
- (2) If the affected area is inflamed, apply a cool compress.

★ If the affected area is extremely swollen, please visit a dermatologist.



Picture 2



Picture 3

3. Bee

Clinical symptoms

The area stung by a bee becomes red, swollen, and painful. These symptoms usually improve within a few days. However, if you are allergic to bee stings or have had several bee stings, bee toxin can trigger more serious clinical symptoms including difficulty breathing, hives, and marked skin swelling. In the worst cases, anaphylactic shock, hypotension, and unconsciousness can occur within an hour of being stung, which are associated with a high mortality rate.

If you have stung by a bee...

- (1) Squeeze out the toxin by pinching the site of the sting.
- (2) Wash carefully with running water.
- (3) Apply a cool compress to the affected area.

★ If the affected area is widespread and extremely painful, please visit a medical institution immediately.

★ If you have serious symptoms such as difficulty in breathing or hives over the whole body, call an ambulance "call 119"



Picture 4