

## CINNABAR MOTH CATERPILLARS

You are sure to see ragwort, a poisonous plant growing up to 40cm tall with yellow flowers like clusters of small dandelion flowers. It grows on clifftops and in the dunes. If you look closely you might find some yellow and black caterpillars (looking like striped football socks) eating the leaves. The caterpillars aren't poisoned by eating the ragwort but they become poisonous to birds that would otherwise have eaten them. This means the caterpillars survive very well. After winter spent as a cocoon they hatch into red and black Cinnabar Moths.



## COMMON LIZARD

If you are lucky you might see a lizard basking in the sun. Like the adder and grass snake, they are cold-blooded which means they need to warm their bodies in the sun. They move very quickly so you will need to look carefully.



## ADDER

Adders can be found on Gower, often in the dunes and they like to lie in sunny places. They have a black zig-zag pattern along their back. Adders are the only poisonous snake found in Britain. You are not likely to see one because if they hear you coming they will move away quickly. Adders won't attack you unless you frighten them, so make sure they know you are coming, keep to the paths and don't touch them.



## GRASS SNAKE

You may also see grass snakes in the dunes. They are green/brown in colour with a yellow and black collar. They are not poisonous and can't hurt you but it is best to leave them in peace.



## CRICKETS AND GRASSHOPPERS

Crickets and grasshoppers are common on Gower in open grassy, places like dunes and clifftops. On warm days, if you listen carefully, you can hear chirruping sounds which aren't made by birds. If you walk towards the sounds you might see crickets or grasshoppers jumping up from the plants. Crickets can act as thermometers. The hotter it gets the faster they chirrup.



Grasshopper



Cricket