

Stick insects

How many insects can you spot in the terrarium?



Look into the terrarium and search for the insects. Do you see them?

The insects look like dry twigs.

Stick insects, scientifically known as phasmids (Greek phasma = ghost), have perfected the art of camouflage. Phasmids are completely harmless and rely on their camouflage to escape predators.

When mildly disturbed, some phasmids may sway, imitating a dead leaf or stick swaying in the breeze.

If in real danger many stick insects react quickly with a spectacular display to frighten the would-be attacker. For example, when annoyed the red-winged *Phaenopharos* suddenly opens its wings to reveal bright red parts.