

THE JEWEL BEETLE



The Jewel Beetle, in the family of Buprestidae, is a biomimicry hero for reasons in addition to its beautiful coloration without pigment, chemicals, or dyes. This insect is designed with the uncanny ability to detect flames of a forest fire perhaps 80 kilometers (approximately 50 miles) away. Not only that, but it can also hear the cracking of the wood and even sense combustion products in very small amounts using supersensitive receptors. (Sherwin, F. 2007. The Amazing

Jewel Beetle. *Acts & Facts*. 36 (5). Scientists are researching how to mimic the beetle's ability to help develop forest fire sensors for early alert and applications in the military for early detection to save lives.