

Figure 49. The fiery hunter is one of the ground beetles (family Carabidae), named for the red to coppery pits on its elytra, and also because both adults and larvae are voracious predators on cutworms and other caterpillars. The scientific name *Calosoma calidum* is derived from the Greek *kalos*, beautiful, and *soma*, body; and from the Latin *calidus*, hot, in reference to the red pits. These beetles are widely distributed through North America where they occur in dry open areas with low vegetation. Adults live for several years and begin hibernation in late summer.

Illustration by Anker Odum.



Figure 50. Beetles numbering some 350,000 known species comprise the largest order of insects. Tiger beetles are a small although common group of predacious beetles living in dry habitats such as sandy beaches and roadsides. Adult tiger beetles such as this one (genus *Cicindela*) have stout mandibles; they run and fly rapidly over open dry sites to capture insect prey. The larvae are concealed in short vertical burrows their large mandibles ready to capture ants and other small insects that pass by.

Illustration by Anker Odum.