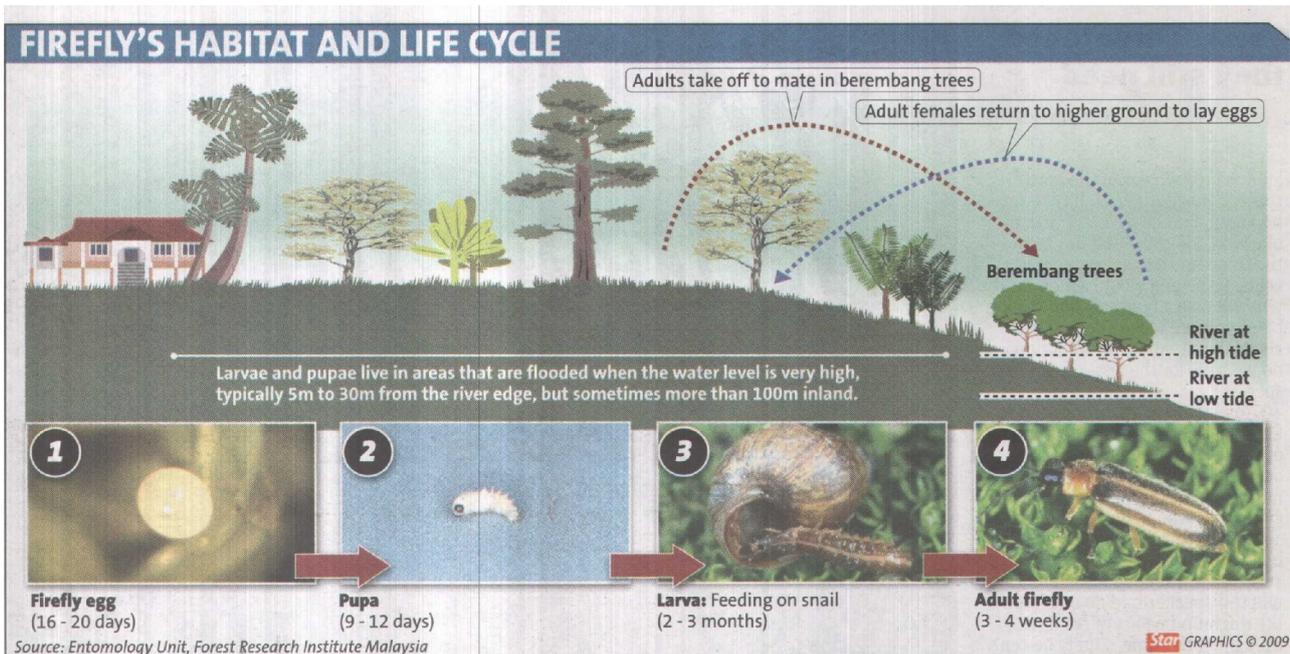


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Buzzing beetle

THE dominant species of firefly in Kuala Selangor is the synchronous flashing *Pteroptyx tener*. The other two species are *P. valida* (non-synchronous) and *P. malaccas* (synchronous but rare).

The life span of *P. tener* from egg to adulthood is four to seven months, with almost 60% of its lifetime spent as a predatory larva. Their flash frequency is about 3.7 flashes per second and their timing is precise.

At night, the females deposit their eggs in the soil and among moss and decaying plant material in the floodplain. Between 80 to 150 eggs are laid each time. The larva survives by preying on small mangrove snails.

■ Source: Entomology Unit, Forest Research Institute of Malaysia