**Water Scorpion**

**Order:** Hemiptera  
**Family:** Nepidae  
**Number of species:** 149

**Size:** 25-50mm

**Genus NEPA**
- Beaklike rostrum on head is used to inject digestive proteins into prey
- 2 pair of segmented legs on thorax used for grasping vegetation
- Caudal siphon or breathing tube

**Genus RANATRA**
- Front pair have jack-knife design to catch and secure prey
- Thick, hardened front wing adapted into protective covering and used to trap air under and protect the wings underneath

**Diet:** Predators. Eat nymphs and other aquatic insects

**Food for:** Game fish

**Habitat:** Still or slow moving waters in ponds and streams near surface.

**Movement:** Floaters; live in aquatic vegetation waiting for prey to pass by just below the surface

**Breathing:** Breathe air through caudal siphon when at surface and uses air sac when submerged.

**Water Quality Indicator:** Group II—can exist under a wide range of water quality conditions; a large number indicates MODERATE water quality.

**Life Cycle Corner**

- Do not undergo metamorphosis
- Eggs are deposited on aquatic vegetation near surface.
- Undergoes five moltings before reaching maturity. Looks the same throughout life cycle.