

Water Boatman

Order: Hemiptera Family: Corixidae

Number of species in North America: 129



Size: 3 - 11 mm (adult)

Modified **beak**, (blunt, triangle shaped non-segmented mouth).

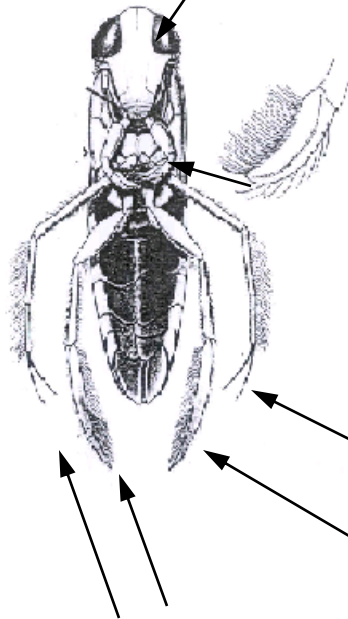
Well developed, prominent eyes.

Dark colored back, light colored stomach.

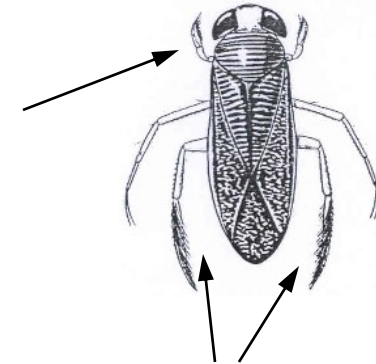
Swims upright.



Short front legs, much shorter than other pairs of legs.



Front legs with stiff setae (hairs) to be used like a rake.



Hind legs are oarlike with swimming hairs

Two long claws on mid pair of legs.

Swimming hairs.

2 pair of long hind legs with swimming

SIMILAR TO: Backswimmer.

- Backswimmers swim on back. Water boatmen swim upright.
- Backswimmers have long front legs. Water boatmen have short front legs.

Credits: McCafferty, W. Patrick. Aquatic Entomology, 1981.

Diet: Insect fluids, small, dead insect parts, detritus, algae.

Food for: Fish (perch, bass, bluegill, crappie), predaceous water insects

Habitat: In the water and bottom. Ponds, shallow lakes, running and quiet waters, stagnant pools, even oceans.

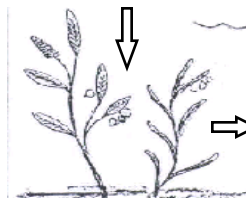
Movement: Swims using hind legs and their swimming hairs. When not swimming, will rest on plants or the bottom, and must hold onto an object in order to stay under water.

Breathing: Surface for air. Thin film of air on the underside (plastron) kept on body. Hairs keep the air there.

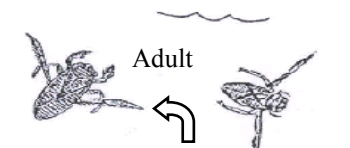
Water Quality Indicator: Group III. Some are highly tolerant of water pollution.

Life Cycle Corner

Onion shaped eggs are attached individually to underwater plants or even crayfish.



Young nymphs breathe through skin. As they grow, they start using trapped air that is next to their body.



Incomplete metamorphosis

