

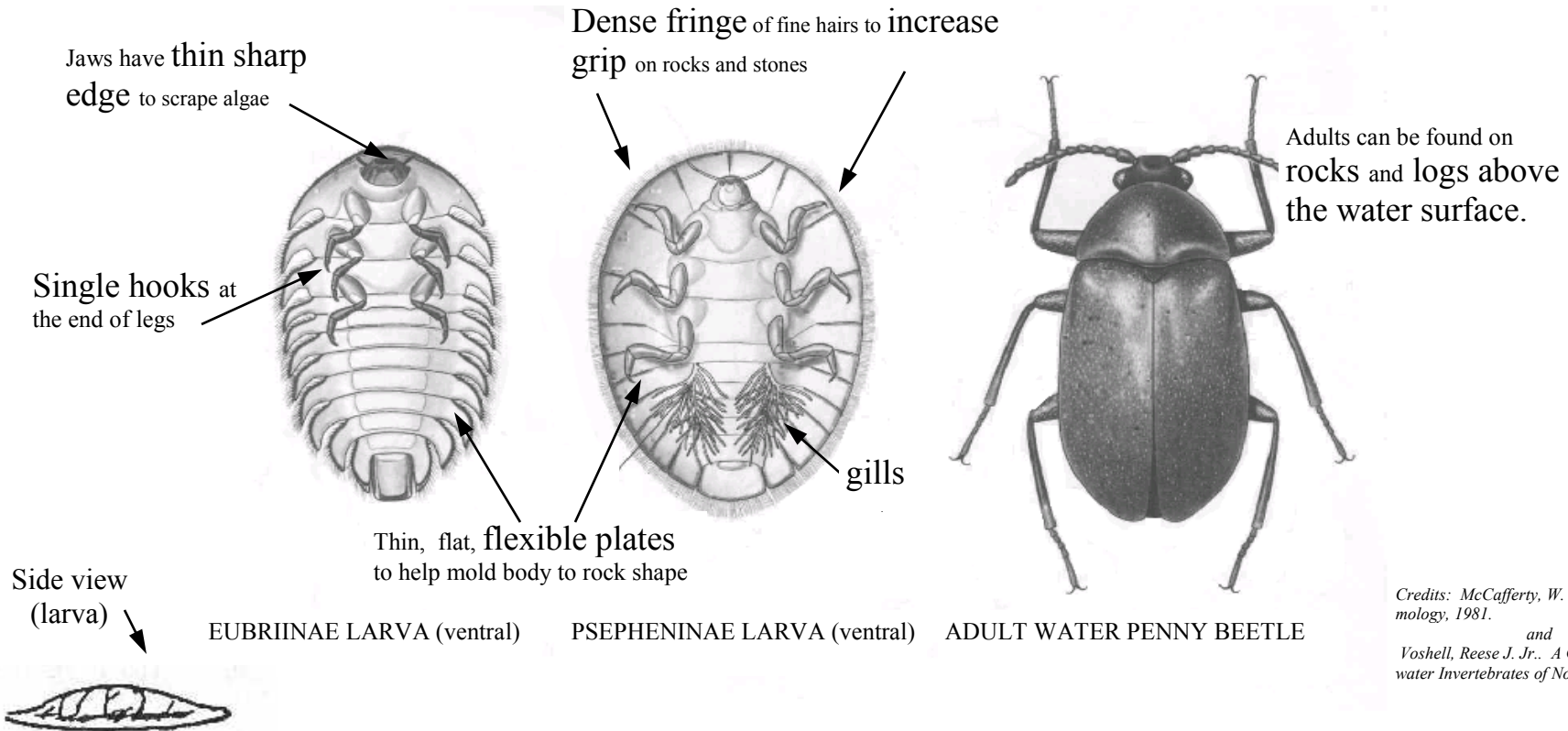
# Water Penny Beetle

Order: Coleoptera Family: Psephenidae

Number of species in North America: 16



Size: 3-10 mm (larvae)



Credits: McCafferty, W. Patrick. *Aquatic Entomology*, 1981.  
and  
Voshell, Reese J. Jr.. *A Guide to Common Freshwater Invertebrates of North America*, 2002.

**Diet:** Larvae are scrappers, they feed on algae, especially diatoms, that collect on rocks and stones in the stream, adults may not feed.  
**Food for:** Trout, predaceous water insects.  
**Habitat:** Larvae can be found on rocks and stones in areas with riffles. Adults can be found on land near water.  
**Movement:** Larvae are clingers; they are able to grip rocks tightly in areas with strong currents.  
**Breathing:** Larvae collect oxygen through gills on underside of abdomen.  
**Water Quality Indicator:** Group I- can exist under a limited range of water quality conditions; a large number indicates GOOD water quality.

## Life Cycle Corner

Complete metamorphosis

1-2 years to complete life cycle



Little is known about adults, they are thought to live for only a short period of time.

Pupate on protected rocks near the water surface.

Mature larvae crawl out of water.

Eggs are deposited in patches. Each patch is a single layer contains 400-600 bright yellow eggs.

Larvae are facultative. They can not live in areas with large concentrations of algae and sediments.