**Water Penny Beetle**

*Order: Coleoptera  Family: Psephenidae*

Number of species in North America: 16

Size: 3-10 mm (larvae)

**Diet:** Larvae are scrapper, 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.

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

Pupate on protected rocks near the water surface.

Mature larvae crawl out of water.

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