**Whirligig Beetle**

*Order: Coleoptera  Family: Gyrinidae*

Number of species in North America: 50

Size: 18 mm (larvae) 10-11 mm (adult)

**Diet:** Adult: scavenges on floating materials, small organisms and insects. Larvae: eat smaller insects.

**Food for:** Fish, other beetles.

**Habitat:** Can be found on the surface of ponds, streams, and slow rivers.

**Movement:** Moves in a circular motion through twists and turns. Uses a type of radar to sense surroundings. Also effective surface swimmers.

**Breathing:** Must surface for air, keeps air trapped next to body.

**Water Quality Indicator:** Group II– can tolerate some pollution; a large number indicates MODERATE water quality.

Can have a strong odor (from secretion) when caught.

Uses antennae to sense surroundings.

Uses longer front legs to seize prey.

Two sets of eyes. Top pair is used above the water. Bottom pair is used for peering into water.

Hind legs have swimming hairs.

Live in colonies.

**Life Cycle Corner**

Complete metamorphosis

7-40 eggs are laid in spring in small batches attached to underwater plant leaves.

Adults emerge at the end of the summer and return to the water.

Larva hatches.

In summer, larva climbs above water onto a plant. In a cocoon made of mud, the adult grows.


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