

Whirligig Beetle

Order: Coleoptera Family: Gyrinidae

Number of species in North America: 50

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



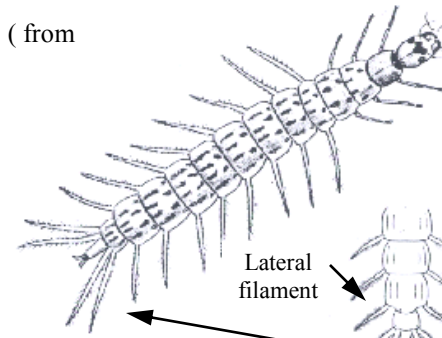
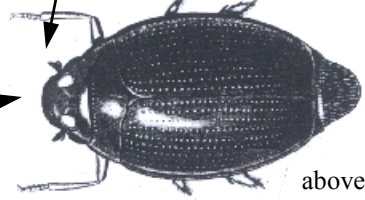
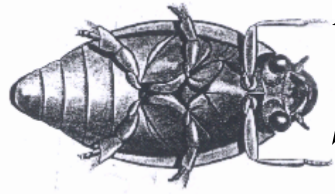
Uses antennae to sense surroundings.

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

Uses longer front legs to seize prey.

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

Hind legs have swimming hairs.



(Pincher like mouthparts)

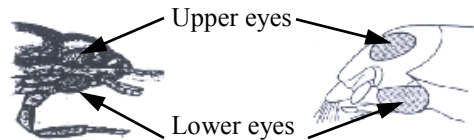
6 segmented legs with double claws

Lateral filament

terminal hooks

4 small hooks at the end of the tail

Live in colonies



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

and

Reid, K. George. *A Golden Guide to Pond Life*, 1995.

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.

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.

