

COMMON WATER INSECTS

The most noticeable animals around water during the spring and summer months are insects. See how many of these you can find.



The publication of this brochure was funded in part by the Federal Aid in Sportfish Restoration Program.

Dragonfly

Food: Flies, mosquitoes, midges



Adult

Identification:

Wings are held straight out from bodies at rest.



Nymph

Fun Fact: Their name comes from fierce jaw as nymph, have excellent eyesight and can detect slightest movement

Mayfly

Food: None



Adult

Identification:

4 almost transparent wings that fold when at rest (praying hands). 2 long filaments (adult) projecting from the end of abdomen



Nymph

Fun Fact: Adults live only live long enough to reproduce, have no mouths to eat or bite with

Stonefly

Food: Other insects



Adult

Identification: Cross wings on backs at rest, two short tails



Nymph

Fun Fact: Very poor fliers, like to only come out at night

Damselfly

Food: Mosquitoes, midges



Adult

Identification:

Smaller than a dragonfly, fold their wings close to their backs at rest, unlike the dragonfly



Nymph

Fun Fact: Have bright colors as adults; yellow, green and even bright blue

Caddisfly

Food: Other insects, algae



Adult

Identification:

Looks like small moth with wings making a tent over their backs at rest



Larva

Fun Fact: Produce silk like spiders to catch food particles from the water

Mosquitoes

Food: Females-blood, Males-nectar, ripe fruit



Adult

Identification: Have scaled wings and long legs for its size

Fun Fact: Most dangerous animal in the world because of the diseases they carry, over 2500 species in the world, 200 of them in the United States



Larva

Horsefly/Deerfly

Food: Males-nectar,
Females-blood



Identification: Horsefly

Deerfly is brown body with dark marks on wings (smaller than a horsefly). Horsefly is black, brown or yellow with brilliantly colored eyes



Deerfly

Fun Fact:
laps up blood like a dog drinks water

Water Boatman

Food: Algae,
decaying plants,
animal matter



Adult

Identification: Oar-like hind legs, grayish oval body, large eyes, a "true bug"



Young

Fun Fact:
Carry around a bubble on wings for oxygen

Water Scavenger Beetle

Food: Decaying plants, animals

Identification: Club shaped antennae, mouth elongated and hair-like. Wiggle from side to side while to air bubbles under sides



Adult

Fun Fact:
Breath through antennae

Predacious Diving Beetle

Food: Insects, larva, small fish



Adult

Identification:
Camouflaged body, hairy back legs used as paddles

Fun Fact: Great swimmers

Midge

Food: Algae



Identification: Adult

Resembles mosquito, males have large feathery antennae



Larva

Fun Fact: Most important food source for fish on a state wide basis, larva are also know as bloodworms

Giant Water Bug

Food: Insects, tadpoles, small fish (inject with toxins)

Identification: 2 inches long, 1 inch wide, beak like mouth, brown, is similar to cockroach, a "true bug"



Adult

Fun Fact: Breathing tube at end of abdomen, can swim and fly, males carry eggs on back

Whirligig Beetle

Food: Insects

Identification:
2 pairs of eyes, black, oval shaped, flat



Adult



Larva

Fun Fact:
Move rapidly over surface film whirling in circles (where they get their name)

Water Strider

Food: Insects, live and dead

Identification:

Slender, dark, long-

legged with non-wetable feet, 6 legs. Congregate in large numbers.

Fun Fact: Walks on water



Adult

Backswimmer

Food: Insects, small fish,
will bite people

Identification: Large eyes; body color: orange, yellow, or black; back legs larger than others and bend forward

Fun Fact: Takes in air from appendages found in stomach



Adult