Iowa Status
common; native

Iowa Range
statewide

Bibliography
Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001. *Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.

aquatic sowbug
representative species

Kingdom:	Animalia
Division/Phylum:	Arthropoda
Class:	Malacostraca
Order:	Ispododa

Features
Aquatic sowbugs are small, brown crustaceans, reaching only one-fifth to four-fifths of an inch long. They have seven pairs of legs on the thorax. The rear legs are longer than the front legs. The first pair of legs has grasping claws. There also are six pairs of appendages on the abdomen. The eyes are not on stalks. The body is flattened from top to bottom.

Natural History
Aquatic sowbugs live on the shallow bottom areas of freshwater ponds, lakes, streams, and springs. Most are omnivores or detritivores, eating many different types of food.

Habitats
Mississippi River; Missouri River; interior rivers and streams; natural lakes and prairie marshes; wet prairies and fens; constructed lakes, ponds, and reservoirs; bottomland forests