crawling water beetle
representative species

Kingdom:	Animalia
Division/Phylum:	Arthropoda
Class:	Insecta
Order:	Coleoptera
Family:	Haliplidae

Features
Crawling water beetles undergo complete metamorphosis (egg, larva, pupa, adult). They may grow to about one-fourth inch long. They have an oval body that tapers at each end. They are yellowish or brownish with black spots on the back. The small head has short antennae. The front wings are hard and meet in a straight line down the middle of the back when not in flight. The hind wings are membranous (thin, pliable) and fold under the front wings when not in flight. The mouthparts are for chewing.

Natural History
Crawling water beetles live in or around ponds, streams, and lakes. Their larvae eat only plants, but adults feed on plant material and animals. They crawl over vegetation in the water.

Habitats
Mississippi River; Missouri River; interior rivers and streams; natural lakes and prairie marshes; constructed lakes, ponds, and reservoirs

Iowa Status
common; native

Iowa Range
statewide

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