



## water scavenger beetle

representative species

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

### Features

Water scavenger beetles undergo complete metamorphosis (egg, larva, pupa, adult). They may grow to longer than 1 1/4 inches. The larva has a wrinkled body. The adult is shiny black above and paler below. One set of mouthparts usually is longer than the short, clubbed antennae. The hind legs are flattened and have a fringe of hairs. 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 ones when not in flight.

### Natural History

Water scavenger beetle adults live in water or in debris along shores. Larvae are found in ponds and streams. Adults usually eat decaying organic matter, but the diet varies among species. Larvae are carnivores, eating insects and snails. The adults move their legs alternately and surface for air head first.

### 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.