



Iowa Range

statewide

Bibliography

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

toad bug

representative species

Kingdom:	Animalia
Division/Phylum:	Arthropoda
Class:	Insecta
Order:	Hemiptera
Family:	Gelastocoridae

Features

Toad bugs undergo incomplete metamorphosis (egg, nymph, adult). They are toad-shaped with a short, wide body and big eyes. The front legs are shorter than the other legs. Adults range from one-fourth to three-eighths inch long.

Natural History

Toad bugs live on the shores of lakes, ponds, and streams in the sand and mud. They eat insects which they pounce on and capture. They hop like toads and lay eggs in the sand at the water's edge.

Habitats

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

Iowa Status

common; native