



deposits eggs on the undersides of stones. The larva lives attached to the bottom of rocks.

### **Habitats**

interior rivers and streams

### **Iowa Status**

uncommon; native

### **Iowa Range**

Buchanan County

### **Bibliography**

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

## **water penny beetle**

representative species

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

### **Features**

Water penny beetles undergo complete metamorphosis (egg, larva, pupa, adult). The larva may grow to one-half inch in diameter and less than one-eighth inch high. Its flat shape keeps it from being swept away in the current. It has small, white gills behind the third (last) pair of legs. It usually is tan or brown, but may be green or black. The body is oval and flattened. The ventral (belly) surface of the adult body is very hairy. 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 penny beetle larvae are aquatic, living in clear, fast-running streams. Adults are terrestrial, but may be found along the edges of streams. The adult and larva eat algae and plants on or near rocks in streams. The female crawls into the water and