

COMMON POND SKATER

The Latin name for the Common Pond skater is *Gerris lacustris*.

Pond-Skater is a common name applied to a slender water bug, which is a predator on other insects.

The pond skater is a medium sized bug, with a body length of about 1cm. It is brownish in colour.

Most live on the surface of quiet waters, but some species are adapted for life on faster-moving streams. The pond-skater darts about with great rapidity, using the middle pair of legs as paddles and the hind pair for steering. The front pair of legs is adapted for grasping prey. Fine, dense hairs on the feet keep the insect from breaking the water's surface film.

In winter the adults move away from the water to hibernate, and return in the spring to lay their eggs. The eggs then hatch into nymphs, which turn into adults by July.