



scud

representative species

Kingdom: Animalia
Division/Phylum: Arthropoda
Class: Malacostraca
Order: Amphipoda
Family:

FEATURES

Scuds are small crustaceans, reaching only one-fifth to four-fifths inch in length. In appearance they are somewhat like shrimp. There are seven pairs of legs on the thorax, the first two pairs with grasping claws. The head contains the eyes and two pairs of antennae. The body is flattened side-to-side.

BEHAVIORS

Scuds live along the bottom in the shallows of many types of water bodies, such as springs, streams, lakes and ponds. Scuds swim on their side along the bottom, accounting for the common name "sideswimmer." Scuds are omnivores and detritivores. Scuds are an important food source for many species of fishes. Although most species of amphipods are commonly found in Illinois, five species of them are listed as endangered in Illinois while another species is listed as threatened. These amphipods tend to be associated with cave habitats.

HABITATS

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> bottomland forests | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> rivers & streams |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> lakes, ponds & reservoirs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> swamps |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lake Michigan | <input type="checkbox"/> temp water supplies |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> marshes | <input type="checkbox"/> wet prairies & fens |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> peatlands | |

ILLINOIS STATUS

- | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> common | <input type="checkbox"/> endangered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> threatened |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> native | <input type="checkbox"/> exotic | |

ILLINOIS RANGE

statewide

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.
Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume I: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.