



- bottomland forests
- lakes, ponds & reservoirs
- Lake Michigan
- marshes
- peatlands
- rivers & streams
- swamps
- temp water supplies
- wet prairies & fens

ILLINOIS STATUS

- common
- endangered
- threatened
- native
- exotic

ILLINOIS RANGE

statewide

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

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). The larva has a wrinkled body. The adult is shiny, black above and paler below. One set of mouthparts (maxillary palpi) is usually 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 and folded under the front wings when not being used for flying.

BEHAVIORS

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

HABITATS