

1949

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Recommended Citation

Statler, S. S. and Jaques, H. E. (1949) "A Preliminary List of the Hydrophilidae Known to Occur in Iowa," *Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science*, 56(1), 399-400.

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A Preliminary List of the Hydrophilidae Known to Occur in Iowa

By S. S. STATLER and H. E. JAQUES

The Hydrophilidae, or water scavenger beetles, received their name from the genus *Hydrophilus*, a word of Greek origin meaning, "a lover of water." They are usually found in ponds and streams. Several genera are, however, terrestrial in habit, living in moist earth and in the dung of cattle and horses, where they are said to feed upon the larvae of dipterous insects. The family consists of some 1,700 species, mostly tropical, but well represented in the temperate regions. About 190 species are known from the United States.

Some of the important characteristics of the family are as follows: eyes large; mentum large and quadrate; antennae with from six to nine segments, the outer ones forming a distinct club; scutellum always present; metasternum large, frequently carinate and produced into a long spine behind; abdomen with five visible segments; tarsi five jointed, the first joint often very small, the middle and hind tarsi sometimes compressed for swimming; maxillary palpi often longer than the antennae and sometimes mistaken for the antennae; the size varies from approximately 1.5-50 mm.

The water scavenger beetles are largely vegetable scavengers, but a few species are known to be predacious on water snails and probably on other aquatic animals. Some of the land forms are thought to be predacious on other insects. The adults are frequently taken at lights and found stranded on the city streets in the early morning. Many species aestivate and hibernate under stones and debris in the bottom of ponds and streams that dry up during certain seasons.

Air is carried in air channels between the elytra and the abdomen, and also on the under surface of the body. The eggs of the larger species are encased by the female in a waterproof receptacle. These egg cases, which sometimes contain a hundred or more eggs, are either fastened on the underside of leaves of water plants or are allowed to float free. In some instances the cases are carried about on the underside of the female's body until they hatch. Frequently some of the young larvae devour their companions; in this way the size of the family is reduced before it escapes from the egg case.

Forty-six species of hydrophilids are known to occur in Iowa. Of these forty-six species, thirty-four are represented in the Iowa

Insect Survey and the others have been reported by reliable authorities. Many more species should be found in Iowa. The stars before the numbers indicate those species reported by Dr. H. F. Wickam and are not represented in the Iowa Insect Survey Collection.

The Leng catalog numbers preceding the names are those used in the Iowa Insect Survey Collection and records.

- | | |
|--|--|
| *2718 <i>Ochthebius tuberculatus</i> Lec. | 2837 <i>Enochrus cinctus</i> (Say) |
| 2743 <i>Helophorus lacustris</i> Lec. | 2841 <i>Enochrus hamiltoni</i> (Horn) |
| *2744 <i>Helophorus lecontei</i> Knisch | 2842 <i>Enochrus diffusus</i> (Lec.) |
| 2750 <i>Helophorus lineatus</i> Say | 2850 <i>Cymbiodyta fimbriata</i> (Melsh.) |
| *2754 <i>Hydrochus scabratus</i> Muls. | 2853 <i>Helocombus bifidus</i> (Lec.) |
| *2759 <i>Hydrochus excavatus</i> Lec. | 2854 <i>Laccobius agilus</i> Rand. |
| *2763 <i>Hydrochus variolatus</i> Lec. | *2860 <i>Chaetarthria pallida</i> (Lec.) |
| *2764 <i>Hydrochus squamifer</i> Lec. | 2867 <i>Sphaeridium scarabaeoides</i>
(L.) |
| 2775 <i>Berosus aculeatus subsignatus</i>
Lec. | *2873 <i>Cercyon unipunctatus</i> (L.) |
| 2776 <i>Berosus pantherinus</i> Lec. | 2874 <i>Cercyon quisquilius</i> L. |
| 2777 <i>Berosus peregrinus</i> (Hbst.) | *2875 <i>Cercyon ocellatus</i> (Say) |
| 2784 <i>Berosus striatus</i> (Say) | 2876 <i>Cercyon praetextatus</i> (Say) |
| 2789 <i>Hydrophilus triangularis</i>
(Say) | 2878 <i>Cercyon fulvipennis</i> Mann. |
| 2792 <i>Dibolocelus ovatus</i> G. & H. | 2883 <i>Cercyon haemorrhoidalis</i>
(Fabr.) |
| 2795 <i>Hydrophilus obtusatus</i> Say | 2884 <i>Cercyon melanocephalus</i> (L.) |
| 2805 <i>Tropisternus glaber</i> (Hbst.) | 2885 <i>Cercyon pygmaeus</i> (Illig.) |
| 2807 <i>Tropisternus lateralis</i> (Fabr.) | 2886 <i>Cercyon nigriceps</i> (Marsh.) |
| *2807a <i>Tropisternus lateralis dor-</i>
<i>salis</i> Brulle | *2888 <i>Cercyon tristis</i> (Illig.) |
| 2808 <i>Hydrobius fuscipes</i> L. | *2892 <i>Cercyon navicularis</i> Zimm. |
| 2819 <i>Paracymus subcupreus</i> (Say) | 2893 <i>Cercyon analis</i> Payk. |
| 2828 <i>Helochares maculicollis</i> Muls. | 2899 <i>Cryptopleurum minutem</i>
(Fabr.) |
| 2834 <i>Enochrus pygmaeus</i> Fabr. | 2900 <i>Cryptopleurum americanum</i>
Horn |
| 2835 <i>Enochrus ochraceus</i> (Melsh.) | |
| 2836 <i>Enochrus perplexus</i> (Lec.) | |

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