Coleoptera

Water Penny

Native to Maine

Freshwater Rivers and Streams

Larval Form

Look for very small larva resembling pennies and have a hard exoskeleton on top. On the bottom they have a suction like mouth and 6 legs that spread to the inside of the shell.

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Note the flat nature of the water penny. From the bottom, note the armored plates that surround the belly and the 6 legs towards the front.

Variations and Details

Bob Henricks



Water pennies vary in color. Normally they are tan or brown, but can be green or black.

No Metamorphosis, Live Birth Incomplete Metamorphosis, Simple Larval Form Incomplete Metamorphosis Complete Metamorphosis Complete Metamorphosis Complete Metamorphosis Larval Form Larval Form

Adult Form



Look for beetle-shaped adults that resemble an extremely large riffle beetle. They are not truly aquatic though because they can be found emerging on rocks.

Similar Species

Adult water pennies resemble riffle beetles, however adult water pennies are much larger (appr. 1-2 cm) and will not be found in the water.

Did You Know?

The water penny is Jeffrey Rubel's (VS intern) favorite macro-invertebrate. He says: "They are the cutest of all macro-invertebrates."

Intolerant of Pollution



Researched and created by Ruthie Hawley & Jeffrey Rubel Help us improve this species card! Contact us with your updates.