

Gammaridea (Amphipod)

Scud
Fresh Water Shrimp

Native to Maine

Freshwater
Ponds, Lakes, Rivers, and Streams

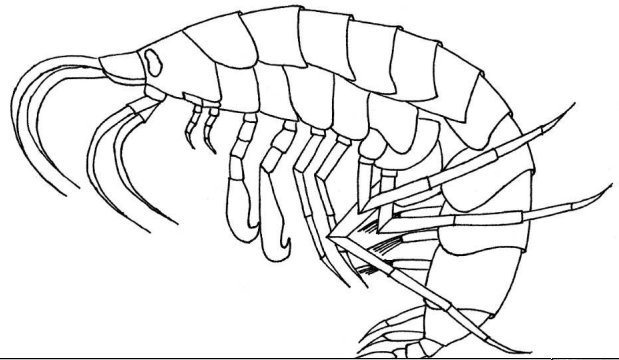
Larval Form



Hillewaert, Wikimedia

Look for a small white crustacean (animals with segmented bodies, exoskeletons, and paired, jointed legs). Scuds look similar to shrimp and live in shallow water.

Larva Illustration



Rebecca Martin

Scuds have 7 pairs of segmented legs, 13 body segments, and 2 pairs of antennae. Scuds appear as miniature adults when they hatch.

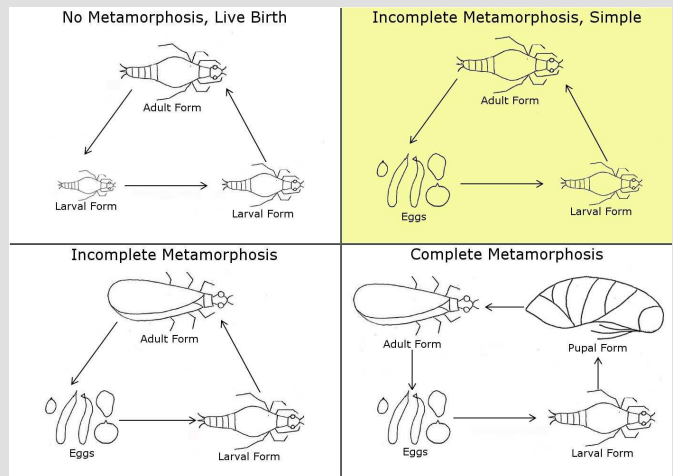
Variations and Details



Mahoney Middle School Students & Kin-ichi, Flickr

Look for variations of color. Scuds can be white, green, or brown. Some scuds have tints of blue or red and others are camouflaged to their surroundings.

Life Cycle Diagram



Adult Form



Mahoney Middle School Students

Scuds increase in size by molting (shedding their exoskeletons). Scuds will molt 9 times or more times and grow to be 5 to 20 mm long.

Similar Species

Scuds are related to crayfish, water fleas, and shrimp. They are smaller than crayfish and shrimp and do not have claws like crayfish. Scuds are similar to springtail insects, though springtails have only 3 pairs of legs and scuds have 7 pairs of legs.

Fun Fact

Scuds swim on their sides, which has given them the nickname of "side swimmers," moving around mostly at night. They help keep water clean by eating debris.

Moderately Tolerant of Pollution



Gulf of Maine
Research Institute



www.vitalsignsme.org

Researched and created by: Sue Donaldson & Rebecca Martin
Help us improve this species card! Contact us with your updates.