

# Isopoda

## Sowbug

Native to Maine

Freshwater  
Rivers and Streams

### Larval Form



Flickr.com user dnnya17



Look for a body with seven segments and seven pairs of legs. Sowbugs will also have paired limbs at the end of their bodies.

### Larva Illustration

#### Your Photo here!

We need a sketch of the sowbug for this identification card. Please take a clear photo of your sketch and send it to:

[vitalsigns@gmri.org](mailto:vitalsigns@gmri.org)

Sowbugs are less than 2 cm in length! They are somewhat flattened and look like their terrestrial cousins, pill bugs!

### Variations and Details

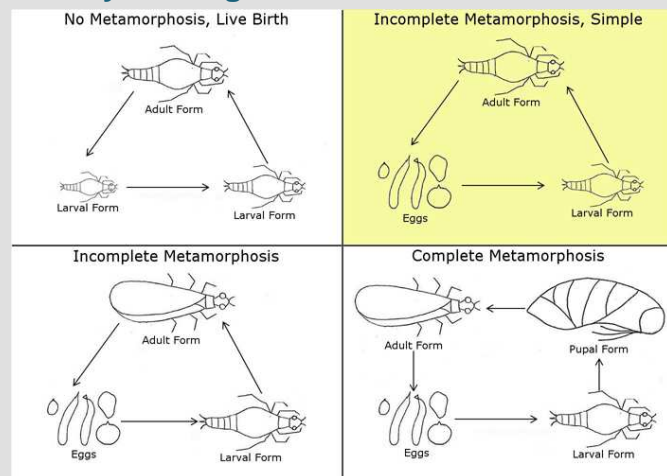


Flickr.com user dnnya17



Sowbugs vary in color from dark gray to white to dark green.

### Life Cycle Diagram



### Adult Form



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The only difference between adult and immature sowbugs is their size. As they mature, the proportion of their body parts may change.

### Similar Species

To tell the difference between a scud and a sowbug, look at the insect from the side. Most sowbugs look very flat while the scud looks more vertical and hump-shaped.

### Did You Know?

Sow bugs are omnivores that feed on dead matter (detritus) in the water. These types of omnivores are called "detritivores" because they eat detritus.

Moderately tolerant of pollution.

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



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