

Eubranchipus spp.

Fairy Shrimp

Native to Maine

Freshwater
Vernal Pools

Carapace (Shell)



Flickr user clocker



Look for black, stalked eyes in adults and a split tail. Fairy shrimp have 11 pairs of swimmerets and move by beating them in a wavelike motion.

Full View



Flickr user colleengreene



Look for a small shrimp that is usually orange in color and with a long straight tail. Fairy shrimp are 15mm - 40mm long and swim upside-down.



Flickr user Connecticutbirder

Legs and Claws



Flickr user yui.kubo



Females often have eggs in a brood sac under the tail. Males will have two larger antenna.

Additional



Flickr user Connecticutbirder



Fairy shrimp live their entire adult lives during the vernal pool's short wet period. Throughout the rest of the year, only the eggs survive.

Similar Species

Mosquito Larvae will often be found where fairy shrimp are found. While similar in size and shape at first glance, mosquito larvae have darker bodies, and big heads with pincers.

Did You Know?

Fairy shrimp eggs survive being dried up and frozen during the winter, which typically only lasts 6-10 months. In the lab, fairy shrimp eggs have survived being frozen for 15 years!