

# Water Bug Identification Guide

## Nepomorpha - Boatmen - 1

### Nepidae

*Nepa cinerea*  
Water Scorpion, 20mm



ID 1  
Common  
Ponds, Lakes, Canals and at stream edges

*Ranatra linearis*  
Water Stick Insect, 35mm



ID 1  
Widely scattered  
Ponds and Lakes

### Aphelocheiridae

*Aphelocheirus aestivalis*  
River Saucer bug, 8-10mm



ID 1  
Local  
Fast flowing streams under stones/gravel

### Naucoridae

*Ilycoris cimicoides*  
Saucer bug, 13.5mm



ID 1  
Widely scattered  
Muddy ponds and stagnant canals

*Naucoris maculata*  
10mm



ID 2  
NORFOLK ONLY

### Pleidae

*Plea minutissima*  
Least Backswimmer, 2.1-2.7mm



ID 1  
Widely scattered  
Often amongst submerged weed in a variety of stillwaters

### Notonectidae

*Notonecta glauca* *Notonecta viridis* *Notonecta maculata* *Notonecta obliqua*  
Common Backswimmer      Peppered Backswimmer      Pied Backswimmer



ID 2  
Very common  
Ubiquitous in all ponds, lakes or canals



ID 2  
Common  
Variety of waters usually more base rich sites



ID 2  
Widely scattered  
In waters with hard substrates, troughs, concrete, etc.



ID 2  
Local  
Peat ponds, acid bog pools and recently clay ponds

### Corixidae

*Arctocorisa gemari*  
8.8mm

No Picture

ID 3  
Local  
Upland limestone lakes, dew ponds, acid moorland lakes, or sandy silt ponds

*Arctocorisa carinata*  
9mm

Northern

ID 3  
Local  
In upland peat pools with little vegetation

### Corixidae

*Micronecta scholtzi*  
2-2.5mm



ID 2  
Common  
open shallow waters over silt or sand

*Micronecta poweri*  
1.8mm

No Picture

ID 2  
Local  
Margins of rivers and quiet backwaters

*Micronecta griseola*  
1.8mm

NEW ARRIVAL

ID 4

*Micronecta minutissima*  
2mm

RARE

ID 4

### Corixidae

*Glaenocorisa propinqua cavifrons*

Northern

ID 3  
Local  
Northern upland lakes

*Glaenocorisa propinqua propinqua*  
8.3mm

Southern

ID 3  
Local  
Southern upland lakes





Identification difficulties are:

ID 1 = id in the field in Northants. ID 2 = need to compare with others in the group. ID 3 = Use the key. ID 4 = take care, difficult


# Water Bug Identification Guide

## Nepomorpha - Boatmen - 2




### Corixidae

|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <i>Hesperocorixa linnaei</i><br>7.5mm   | <i>Hesperocorixa sahlbergi</i><br>8mm   | <i>Hesperocorixa moesta</i><br>5.8mm  | <i>Hesperocorixa castenea</i><br>5mm  |
|  |  |  |  |
| ID 2  | ID 2  | ID 3  | ID 3  |
| Widely scattered<br>In well vegetated ponds and lakes                             | Very common<br>in water with a high level of dissolved organic matter             | Local<br>In shallow ponds with grass/moss, woodland detritus ponds                | Local<br>Peaty ponds and bog pools, often in very acidic                          |



### Corixidae

|   |                                      |   |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| <i>Callicorixa praeusta</i><br>7.5mm  | <i>Callicorixa wollastoni</i><br>7mm | <i>Sigara concinna</i><br>6.8mm                             |
|  | UPLAND                               |   |
| ID 2  | ID 3                                 | ID 2  |
| Common<br>A variety of waters including silt ponds and bog pools                    | Local<br>Closed peat pools           | Local<br>Ponds, gravel pits, small lakes, little vegetation |



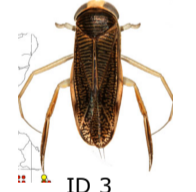

### Corixidae

|  |  |  |  |                                 |
|--|--|--|--|---------------------------------|
| <i>Corixa punctata</i><br>13mm   | <i>Corixa dentipes</i><br>12.5mm   | <i>Corixa affinis</i><br>8.5mm   | <i>Corixa iberica</i><br>13mm  | <i>Corixa panzeri</i><br>10.5mm |
|  |  |  | Ireland and Scotland only  |                                 |
| ID 2   | ID 2   | ID 3   | ID 3   | ID 2                            |
| Very common<br>In weedy ponds, dykes or river back waters with slow flow           | Widely scattered<br>In weedy ponds, dykes or river back waters with slow flow      | Local<br>Grassy, slightly brackish, dykes or ponds on clay                         | Widely scattered<br>In base rich lakes, pools and ditches, especially in deep open water with rafts of reeds |                                 |



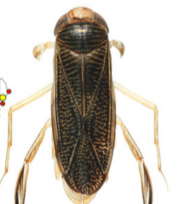
### Corixidae

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <i>Cymatia coleoptera</i><br>3.7mm  | <i>Cymatia bonshorffii</i><br>6mm   | <i>Cymatia rogenhoferi</i><br>7.2mm    |
|          |  | NEW ARIVAL                             |
| ID 1  | ID 3  | ID 3                                   |
| Widely scattered<br>Ponds and ditches with thick masses of chara, clear water and a slow flow | Widely scattered<br>Muddy or sandy bottoms of ponds or evolved lakes                  | River backwaters.<br>Acidic and saline |


### Corixidae

|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <i>Sigara nigrolineata</i><br>5.8mm   | <i>Sigara fossarum</i><br>6.1mm   | <i>Sigara limitata</i><br>5.8mm   | <i>Sigara lateralis</i><br>5.8mm  |
|  |    |  |  |
| ID 3  | ID 3  | ID 3  | ID 1  |
| Very common<br>Ponds on clay or peat, cattle troughs                                | Widely scattered<br>Still or slowly flowing water in ponds and at lake margins usually upon clay with thick masses of reeds | Widely scattered<br>Ponds associated with aggregate extraction, silt or clay        | Very common<br>Ponds and ditches especially in organically enriched sites           |

### Corixidae

|   |   |   |                                |
|---|---|---|--------------------------------|
| <i>Sigara dorsalis</i><br>7.3mm   | <i>Sigara falleni</i><br>7.5mm  | <i>Sigara distincta</i><br>8.5mm  | <i>Sigara iactans</i><br>7.5mm |
|  |  |  | NEW ARIVAL                     |
| ID 3  | ID 3  | ID 3  | ID 4                           |
| Very common<br>A wide variety of ponds, ditches, lakes and canals                     | Very common<br>Lowland slow flowing rivers, ponds and Lakes                           | Widely scattered<br>Wide range of waters from detritus pods and lakes to canals       |                                |

### Corixidae

|   |                                   |                                |                                |  |  |  |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| <i>Sigara venusta</i><br>5.3mm  | <i>Sigara longipalis</i><br>7.5mm | <i>Sigara striata</i><br>7.3mm | <i>Sigara selecta</i><br>5.7mm | <i>Sigara semistriata</i><br>6mm                               | <i>Sigara stagnalis</i><br>6.3mm                                 | <i>Sigara scotti</i><br>5.6mm  | <i>Sigara fallenoida</i><br>7.5mm |
|  | NORFOLK ONLY                      |                                | Kent and Sussex only           | COASTAL  | No Picture   | COASTAL  | IRELAND ONLY                      |
| ID 3  | ID 3                              | ID 3                           | ID 3                           | ID 3   | ID 3   | ID 3   | ID 3                              |
| Widely scattered<br>In clear running water pools, calcareous or acidic              |                                   |                                | Local<br>Saltwater species     | Widely scattered<br>Peat pools including heavily shaded waters | Local<br>Brackish water, saltmarsh pools, and dykes near the sea | Local<br>in peaty lakes and pools usually where vegetation is sparse |                                   |

# Water Bug Identification Guide

## Gerromorpha - Skaters

### Hydrometridae

*Hydrometra stagorum*  
Water Measurer, 10.5mm



ID 1

Very common  
Reedy margins of rivers  
and stream, edges of  
ponds and ditches

*Hydrometra gracilentia*  
8mm

RARE

ID 3  
Rare

New forrest, Barton and  
Sutton Broads only

### Hebridae

*Herbrus ruficeps*  
Sphagnum bug, 1.35mm



ID 2  
Local

Wet and partly  
submerged moss

*Hebrus pusillus*  
1.75mm

RARE

ID 3

Notable  
Margins of ponds and  
seepages, in south

### Veliidae

*Velia caprai*  
River cricket  
6.5mm



ID 3

Very common  
Usually on waters  
with vegetated  
margins

*Velia saulii*  
River mud cricket  
6.5mm

No  
Picture

ID 4

Widely scattered  
Usually on waters  
with bare margins

### Microvelidae

*Microvelia reticulata*  
Silver micro cricket  
1.75mm



ID 2

Very common  
At the margins of  
lakes, pools and  
ditches amongst thick  
emergent vegetation

*Microvelia pygmaea*  
Orange micro cricket  
1.9mm



ID 2

Nationally scarce  
Usually on waters  
with bare margins

*Microvelia buenoi*  
2mm

No  
Picture

ID 2

Near threatened  
Wicken Fen and  
Norfolk only

### Gerridae

*Gerris lacustris*  
Common pond skater  
9mm



ID 3

Very common  
Ubiquitous on  
standing water and  
the backwaters of  
streams

*Gerris odontogaster*  
Toothed pond skater  
8mm



ID 2

Very common  
Wide variety of  
standing waters.  
It often lands on  
small puddles

*Gerris argentatus*  
Little pondskater  
7.3mm



ID 3

Local  
Ponds, ditches,  
small pools and  
sometimes  
lakesides

*Gerris gibbifer*  
11.5mm

No  
Picture

ID 3

Widely scattered  
Lowland acid  
waters, peat pools,  
shallows on clay,  
moorland ditches

*Gerris thoracicus*  
11mm



ID 3

Common  
Sporadic on a  
wide variety of  
open waters

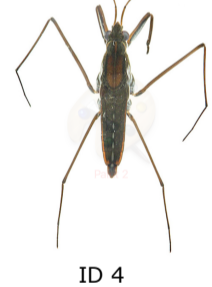
*Gerris costae*  
Peat pondskater  
13mm

No  
Picture

ID 3

Local  
Upland peat  
pools

*Gerris lateralis*  
Swamp pond skater  
10mm



ID 4

Local  
Vegetated wetland  
sites including  
swamps and carex  
fen

### Aquarius and Limnopus

*Aquarius paludum*  
15mm



ID 2

Notable  
Large bodies of open  
water such as lakes,  
canals and large ponds

*Aquarius najas*  
16mm



ID 2

Local  
Flowing water,  
sometimes lake  
margins

*Limnopus rufoscutellatus*  
15mm

IRELAND  
ONLY

ID 3

### Mesovelidae

*Mesovelia furcata*  
Pondweed bug, 3.3mm



ID 2

Widely scattered  
On floating leaves of  
water plants in ponds