

Water Mite (sub-order Hydrocarina)

An Arachnid (8 legs)

Size: Up to 7mm

Carnivore – Adults free-living and feed on aquatic insects, their eggs and small crustaceans by grasping prey with palps, puncturing and sucking out juices. 6-legged; larval stage is parasitic, extracting body tissues of pond skaters, mosquitoes and water beetles among others.



Breathes by taking O_2 from the water by diffusion. A system of tubes (tracheae) then transports this through the body.

Often brightly coloured red or green, they swim actively through water (aided by long hairs on their legs). There are around 300 species in the UK alone.