

## Water Scorpion (*Nepa cinerea*)

A Hemipteran Bug (6 legs)

Size: Body 18 to 22mm with long, thin trachea

**Carnivore** – eats water fleas, worms, freshwater shrimp, tadpoles, hoglice, and small insect nymphs and larvae by grasping with pincer-like front legs and sucking out fluids through pointed beak (rostrum).

Breathes through long siphon-like tube (trachea) which it positions above surface to top up trapped air bubble.

Resembles dead leaf as it waits amongst vegetation for prey to approach. Also crawls on bed of river. Only flies if it really has to – e.g. if river or pond dries up.

