

Coleoptera

Riffle Beetle

Native to Maine

Freshwater
Waters edge, Rivers and streams

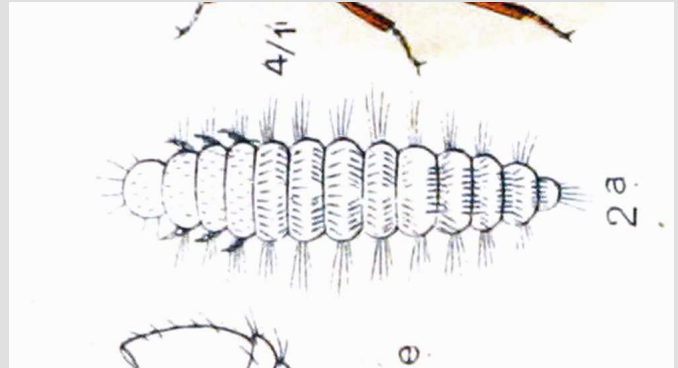
Larval Form



Bob Hendricks

Look for larva that resemble small torpedoes with 2 tiny hooks and short hairs on the back end. The body is segmented with circular stripes. It grows up to 2 cm long.

Larva Illustration



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Note that in the larval form, the riffle beetle's legs extend from the front end of its body while the hairs extend from the back half.

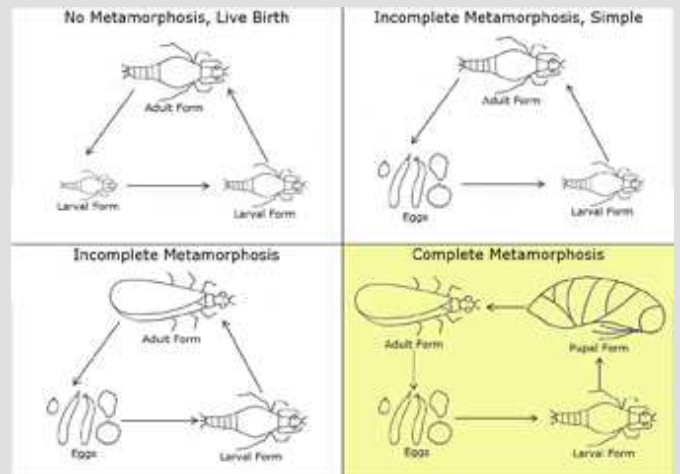
Variations and Details



Bob Hendricks

Larva are normally gray-colored, but can be brownish in color. Both the adult and the larva will be found in the water.

Life Cycle Diagram



Adult Form



Bob Hendricks

Adults have a small, oval body with defined wing coverings that come together in a line. The abdomen of the beetle is the largest part. The claws have a forked appearance.

Similar Species

The riffle beetle larva can be easily confused with caddisfly larva. To tell them apart, remember that the caddisfly has a hard, crunchy head and a soft, squishy body, but the riffle beetle is hard all over.

Did You Know?

An easy way to tell if you found a riffle beetle adult is to take it and stick it in a container of water. If it seems to be happy inside of the water, it is a riffle beetle adult. If it is trying to escape, it is not a riffle beetle.

Riffle beetles are intolerant of pollution.



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