

Bloodworm

Latin name: *Chironomous species*



Feeds on: Dead plant and animal material

Is eaten by: Carnivores such as water mites and Greater Water Boatmen.

Size: Up to 15mm

Habitat: Mud at the bottom of ponds. Most are found close to the edge of the pond because this is where the most detritus will be.

Oxygen adaptation: Absorb oxygen across their 'skin'. They have large amounts of a haemoglobin like substance, so they can survive in the mud where oxygen levels are low.

Did you know? Bloodworms aren't actually worms. They are midge larvae. They metamorphosise into midge pupae in the mud. The pupae then swim to the surface, where they emerge as adult non-biting midges.



Midge pupa