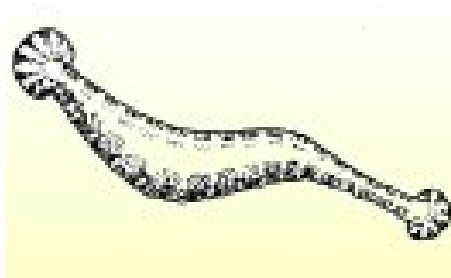


Leech

Latin name: *Theromyzon species*



Feeds on: Body fluids of pond animals, including frogs, fish and larvae.

Is eaten by: Fish and large insect larvae e.g. dragonfly nymphs.

Size: Up to 50mm

Habitat: They spend most of their time on the bottom or attached to plants, but can swim in open water.

Oxygen adaptation: They have a large surface area when stretched out and absorb oxygen across their whole surface.

Did you know? Leeches are parasites. They wait outstretched for the prey because this makes them look like a twig. They use a proboscis to suck blood out of their prey. A leech can consume more than its body weight at a time and might not need to feed again for a month. Leeches are hermaphrodite (have male and female characteristics), so they can all lay eggs. The eggs are stuck onto plants or rocks and have a protective case.

