

Water mite

Latin name:

Hydrachna species (Red water mite)



Red water mite

Feeds on:

Small invertebrates like water fleas, water lice, young Lesser Water Boatmen and blood worms.

Is eaten by:

Carnivores such as Water spider.

Size:

Up to 6mm

Habitat:

Open water

Oxygen adaptation:

Because they are so small they can absorb oxygen through their 'skin'. A system of tubes called tracheae carry oxygen around their body once it has been absorbed.

Did you know?

Water mites are arachnids and so have 8 legs. The easiest to spot water mites are the red ones. They can grow up to 6mm. They pierce their prey and suck out the juices. In some species the larvae are parasitic, attaching themselves to a host.

