

Scud (Sideswimmer) Fact Sheet

Order: *Amphipoda*

Family: *Gammaridae*

Number of species in North America: 150

Size: 5–20 mm

Similar to: Aquatic Sowbug

- Body flattened side to side (scud) vs. body flattened top to bottom (aquatic sowbug).

Facts:

- Flattened sideways
- Swims sideways and rests in a curved position.
- White or clear body with many segments.
- 2 scuds often cling together.

Diet: Detritus (dead animal and plant pieces or other organic matter). Some may filter feed.

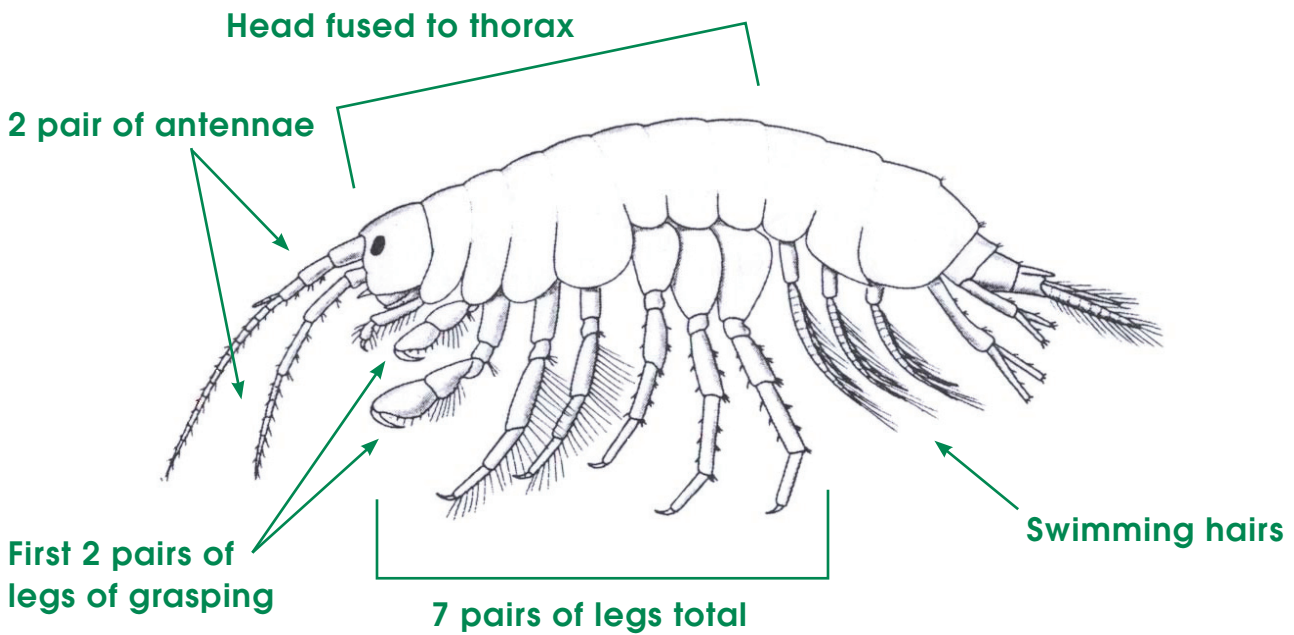
Food for: Fish, predaceous water insects.

Habitat: Open water and rests on bottom and on debris in shallow water environments.

Movement: Swims on side. Also crawls and walks. Often will swim in circles. More active at night.

Breathing: Movement of swimming hairs pushes oxygen into the gills under its body.

Water Quality Indicator: Group II—Can tolerate some water pollution.

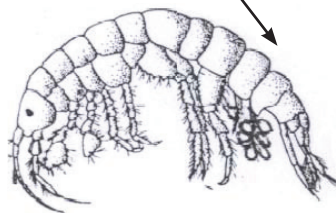


Life Cycle Corner

Incomplete Metamorphosis

Eggs kept with female in portions of a shedded skeleton.

Eggs hatch in 9–30 days revealing miniature adults that stay with female for a few days until she molts releasing the young.



Images: McCafferty, W. Patrick. *Aquatic Entomology*, 1981.



CREEK CONNECTION
Allegheny College