

Water Penny Beetle

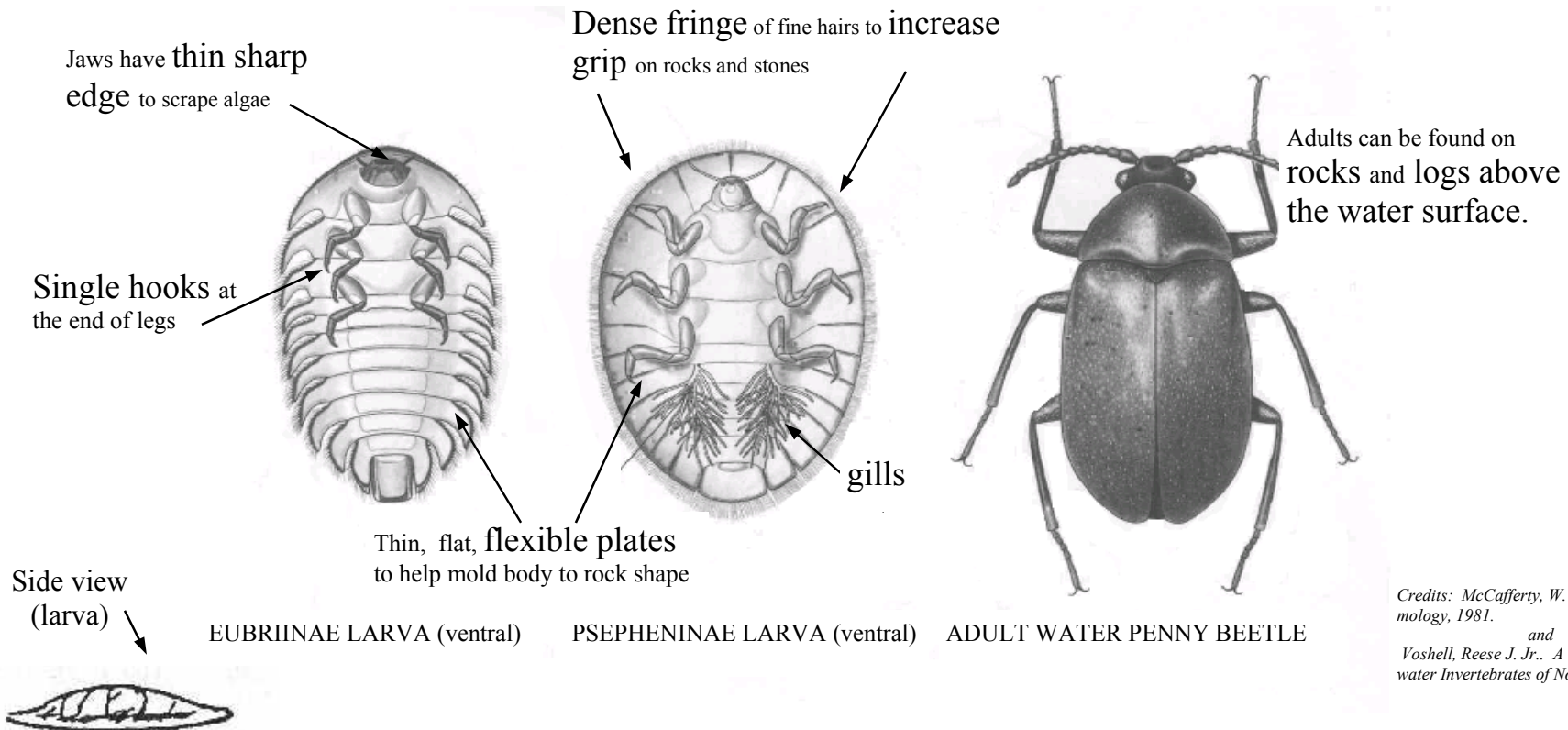
Order: Coleoptera Family: Psephenidae

Number of species in North America: 16



CREEK CONNECTIONS,
Allegheny College

Size: 3-10 mm (larvae)



Credits: McCafferty, W. Patrick. *Aquatic Entomology*, 1981.
and
Voshell, Reese J. Jr.. *A Guide to Common Freshwater Invertebrates of North America*, 2002.

Life Cycle Corner

Complete metamorphosis

1-2 years to complete life cycle



Little is known about adults, they are thought to live for only a short period of time.

← Pupate on protected rocks near the water surface.

↻ Mature larvae crawl out of water.

⇒ Eggs are deposited in patches. Each patch is a single layer contains 400-600 bright yellow eggs.

Larvae are facultative. They can not live in areas with large concentrations of algae and sediments.

Diet: Larvae are scrappers, they feed on algae, especially diatoms, that collect on rocks and stones in the stream, adults may not feed.

Food for: Trout, predaceous water insects.

Habitat: Larvae can be found on rocks and stones in areas with riffles. Adults can be found on land near water.

Movement: Larvae are clingers; they are able to grip rocks tightly in areas with strong currents.

Breathing: Larvae collect oxygen through gills on underside of abdomen.

Water Quality Indicator: Group I- can exist under a limited range of water quality conditions; a large number indicates GOOD water quality.