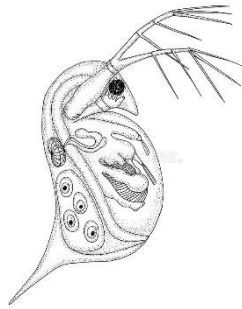


WATER FLEA



Daphnia



Size:

1 to 5mm long

Key Features:

These tiny creatures are free-swimming and live for up to 14 months in a fish-free pond ... or about 6 months if predators are about!

The body is in two sections, but these cannot easily be seen because head is fused and bend down into body section.

It has 5 or 6 pairs of legs and compound eyes. They have 2 sets of antennae, the smaller for feeding, the larger for fast 'jumping' movement.

Their eggs can withstand extreme conditions of drought and freezing, only hatching when conditions are perfect!

Feeding:

They are filter feeders and constantly beat their legs and smaller antennae to make a current of water into their mouth.

Daphnia are omnivorous, eating algae, bacteria and other microscopic creatures.

Amazing facts:

They are actually tiny crustaceans – so are part of the crab and shrimp family!

