

Lesser Water Boatman (Families Corixidae & Pleidae)

A Hemipteran bug (6 legs - swims on **belly**)

Size: Up to 16mm

Mainly **herbivorous** – feeds on algae and rotten plants by injecting them with saliva, then sucking up digested material through straw-like mouthparts (rostrum).

Breathes by a bubble of air trapped under wing cases and between hairs.



Hindlegs adapted like paddles for powerful swimming.
Can also fly well and colonises new ponds quickly.