

Water Measurer (*Hydrometra stagnorum*)

A Hemipteran Bug (6 legs)

Size: 9 to 12mm

Carnivore and **scavenger** – feeds on small invertebrates e.g. midge larvae, mosquito larvae and water fleas, that float to the surface, dead or alive. Stabs prey with pointed beak (rostrum) and sucks out body fluids.

Breathes by diffusion through tiny holes (spiracles) on body surface.

Has hydrophobic (water-repelling) hairs on its legs allowing it to walk on the surface. Legs also very sensitive to vibrations on water surface allowing it to detect prey. Walks slowly and deliberately across the water close to vegetation.

