

CAUGHT ON CAMERA

Pond skaters belong to a larger group of insects known as water striders, which are often quite particular about the quality of water they inhabit. Unusually among insects, a few water strider species are truly pelagic, being encountered on the open ocean.

This pond skater, *Limnogonus capensis*, is about 11 millimetres long and has elongated legs with which it rows itself across the water surface at high speed. Only the middle legs are used for locomotion; the forelegs perform feeding duties and are used when the insect is mating. The species feeds on small insects that fall onto the water surface, catching them by detecting vibrations as they struggle. It is found in a wide range of habitats, frequently on stagnant water. ■

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