



water flea

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Common Name	water flea
Genus & Species	<i>Daphnia galeata galeata</i>
Family	Daphniidae
Order	Diplostraca
Class	Branchiopoda

Diagnosis: This water flea has a short and prominent antennae mound. Its helmet is narrow, pointed at the top, and somewhat undulating along the margins. The rostrum is blunt and obtuse. The ventral side of the head is convex above the optic vesicle and concave behind it.

Ecology: Like other cladocerans, *D. g. galeata* is capable of reproducing asexually through parthenogenesis. This species can also produce resting eggs that are able to survive periods of desiccation in sediment. *Daphnia galeata galeata* poses a risk to native North American *Daphnia* spp. by its ability to hybridize. In regards to feeding, this species of water flea is a generalist filter feeder that targets the water column. Males and females tend to range from 1.2 mm to 2 mm in size, with males typically being smaller.



Habitat & Distribution: *D. g. galeata* is a planktonic species that prefers large lakes; however, some populations are found in ponds, sluggish rivers, and hyporheic zones. Populations of this species tend to occur and thrive in eutrophic environments. *D. g. galeata* is native to the Palearctic region, in northern Africa, Europe, and Asia north of the Himalayas. In the U.S., *D. g. galeata* was introduced into the Great Lakes basin in ballast water. This species was first detected in Lake Erie in the late 1970s, early 1980s.

Status: So far, established populations of *D. g. galeata* have only been recorded from Lake Ontario and Lake Erie.

USGS Fact Sheets: <http://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/factsheet.aspx?SpeciesID=2732>