



Water Skipper

Gerridae is a family of true [bugs](#) in the order [Hemiptera](#), commonly known as water striders, water bugs, magic bugs, pond skaters, skaters, skimmers, water scooters, water skaters, water skeeters, water skimmers, water skippers, water spiders, or Jesus bugs.

They have hydrofuge hairpiles. These hairs are small, [hydrophobic](#) microhairs with more than one thousand microhairs per millimeter. They provide the resistance to splashes or drops of water. Repelling the water, microhairs prevent drops from weighing down the body.

Gerridae generally inhabit surfaces of calm freshwater areas. They live in large groups working together to obtain nutrition and shelter outside of the mating season. Water striders will disperse when their groups become too dense.

These species do not show [familial](#) tendencies, leaving their young to forage on their own. Females cannibalize more on young than males do. Young must disperse as soon as their wings are fully developed to avoid cannibalism and other territorial conflicts. Neither parents nor siblings can identify members genetically related to themselves.

Water striders do not bite people. Predators of the water strider, like birds and fish, take advantage of the fact that water striders cannot detect motion above or below the water's surface.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gerridae> retrieved_07 13 2012.

