

GIANT WATER BUG

HEMIPTERA: BELOSTOMATIDAE



Did you know? Giant water bugs love football stadiums! Look for them crawling around at the base of lights at Death Valley.

Did you know? Giant water bugs, like all true bugs, have a beak! They work like a big mosquito, sucking up juices from their prey.

Did you know? Giant water bugs are also called “toe biters” for their painful bite and “electric light bugs” because of their love of lights! In some countries, they’re called a snack! People will deep fry them on skewers and sell them in markets

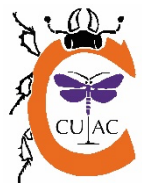
Did you know? Giant water bugs can be pests in fish hatcheries. They fly into the tanks from outside and help themselves to a buffet of tiny fish!

Look and see!



Some giant water bug males carry their eggs on their back! This protects them from predators and keeps them healthy.

Giant water bugs can take down big prey! Turtles, fish and even snakes!



Credits:

Photos: Giant Water Bug (<https://www.flickr.com/photos/42244964@N03/13569458513/>), Ferocious water bug with eggs (<https://www.projectnoah.org/spottings/8287627>); Giant Water Bug Eating Snake (BBC Nature)

Facts: Merritt, R.W., Cummins, K.W. & Berg, M.B. (2008) Chapter 15 Aquatic and Semiaquatic Hemiptera. In *An Introduction to the Aquatic Insects of North America*. pp. 385–423.

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