

COPEPODS (cope-eh-pods)

are microscopic, 10-legged crustaceans.

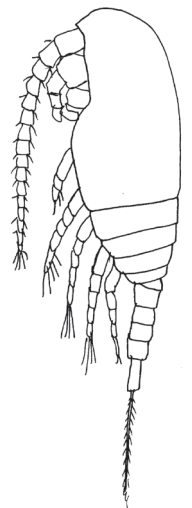


Copepods do not have a heart or lungs. They take oxygen from the water around them.

Copepods found in ponds eat phytoplankton which are mostly single-cell algae.



SIDE VIEW



Copepods make eggs that hatch into a larva called a nauplius. They molt (shed their skins) as they grow larger and larger. After every molt, the larva looks more like an adult. Their entire life cycle takes anywhere from a week to a year, depending on the species.

When you look at copepods under the microscope, you rarely see their legs. They are tucked up and under the body.