

THE INSECT WORLD

WHERE THEY LIVE —

On about all land areas and in streams, ponds, and lake & coastal waters. Five species of water striders (genus *Halobates*) even live on the surface of the warm parts of the oceans.

WHAT THEY EAT —

Insects overall eat almost all organic material.

HOW LONG THEY LIVE —

The adult life span ranges from about one day for some mayflies to about 25 years for some termites.]

FAST RUNNERS

An American cockroach was timed at 32 inches/sec (1.8 mph).

JUMPING INSECTS

Some grasshoppers can jump about 15 times their body length, and some fleas can jump about 13 inches, 200 times their length.

FAST FLIERS

Horse flies – 15 mph; dragonfly – 36 mph.

WING BEATS

Large butterflies — 8 to 12 beats/sec; some mosquitoes, 600 beats/sec.

THE LONGEST INSECT

A strong candidate is a Borneo walkingstick at about 13 inches.

THE SMALLEST INSECT

Currently a male parasitic wasp, family Mymaridae, genus *Dicopomorpha*, at about 0.01 inches.

THE HEAVIEST INSECT

A larva of a scarab beetle, *Dynastes Hercules*, at 0.3 lbs.

SURVIVABILITY

Radiation tests on German cockroaches showed that they could survive the levels of the first Atomic bombs!