CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Horsehair Worm

Gordius spp.

Horsehair worms (phylum Nematomorpha) are long, thin, brown, apparently featureless threads that show up in puddles, horse troughs and swimming pools, which is where the old folk belief came from tha…

Quick facts

Classification: Invertebrate
Family: Gordiidae
Habitat: Freshwater
Diet: Parasitic (Larval), Non-feeding (Adult)
Conservation status: Least Concern
Lifespan: 1-2 years
Weight: Less than 1 gram
Scientific name: Gordius spp.

Did you know?

- Horsehair worms were once believed to spontaneously generate from horsehair left in water, a myth that persisted for centuries.
- In Japanese headwater streams, worm-driven cricket suicides deliver so much insect biomass into the water that they can supply a substantial share of…

What I learned

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