

Daddy Longlegs



GARDEN EARTH
NATURALIST
ECO-SERVICE CARDS

DADDY LONGLEGS

FAMILY: Several

ORDER: Opiliones

IDENTIFICATION CLUES



- ◆ oval body, 1/8 - 1/4 inch long
- ◆ 4 pairs of very long, very thin legs (they are in the same class as spiders)
- ◆ head-thorax and abdomen are broadly joined appearing as one unit

Where to Look:



Daddy Longlegs are found in fields, woods and grassy areas. They are often seen in woodpiles. They are nocturnal and are often found in clusters during the day hidden under vegetation.

Who Eats It?

Daddy longlegs are eaten by predatory insects and birds.

LIFE CYCLE



The female lays her eggs in moist soil under stones or leaf litter. The females often overwinter in the leaf litter and lay their eggs in the spring. The young look like small adults.

What It Eats.

Daddy longlegs feed on insects, spiders, flies, aphids, larvae, centipedes and earthworms. They also scavenge dead insects.

Role in the Ecosystem

Daddy longlegs play a role in population control as well as recycling.



Did You Know

Daddy longlegs defend themselves by waving their second pair of long legs in the air. Some have stink glands.