

King Diving Beetle

Species Description

Scientific name: *Dytiscus dimidiatus*

Diving beetles (*Dytiscus spp.*) are large beetles that can be found in ponds and slow-moving water. They are voracious predators, hunting smaller invertebrates, tadpoles and even small fish. The larvae are large, fearsome-looking beasts, with big, biting jaws. They use damp soil by the edge of the water to pupate in. Adults can be spotted poking the tips of their abdomens out of the surface of the water in order to replenish the air supply stored beneath their wing cases.

This species is Near Threatened and very much an ancient fenland specialist, the fens of Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire being one of its key strongholds.



Photo: Drägüs

Key ID features

Very large beetle—32-38mm long



Pale yellow-brown underneath

Yellow stripe on side of pronotum—not on front

Photo: AfroBrazilian