

# Findings from the Field

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Volume 6

Article 9

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2023

## Snow Fleas

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### Recommended Citation

M, Nola (2023) "Snow Fleas," *Findings from the Field*: Vol. 6, Article 9.

Available at: <https://findings.gmri.org/journal/vol6/iss1/9>

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Nature Note  
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## Snow Fleas By Nola M

Snow fleas ( Also more commonly known as springtail ) are small insects that live in the snow. When my class and I adventured outside to the school trail surrounded by trees and streams at 1:10pm on March 15 2023 in the cold 41°F weather, we were on the hunt to find things we would like to focus on to make a nature note. Our class found many snow fleas in the open sunny areas and by trees.



They jump around in the snow and love to move. That is usually how you can tell if it is a snow flea. They have 6 legs and are a greenish brown color, as shown in the picture ( To the left ). As you can see from the picture ( To the right ) a snow flea is very small compared to one of my classmate's fingers. They have tails that act like springs called furcula, when the furcula is released the small snow flea shoots forward.



One day after a snowstorm we went out to the trails at the same time to take a second look and we discovered that after new fresh snowfall the snow fleas were very hard to find. There was also a lack of direct sunlight which also could have affected the amount that was visible. They eat microscopic fungi and algae.

While observing the snow fleas we noticed that many of them are no longer living so my question is, "How long does a snow flea live, and at the end of the winter months do the snow fleas just die or burrow in some way until next winter?" I think it would be interesting to try and tag a snow flea with a microchip and check up on it to see when they die or where they go?



## Works Cited

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