

**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** *Rhyacophila spinata*  
**COMMON NAME:** Spiny rhyacophilan caddisfly  
**CLASS, FAMILY:** Insecta, Rhyacophilidae

**ORIGINAL DESCRIPTION:** Denning, D.G. 1965. New rhyacophilids and limnephilids (Trichoptera: Rhyacophilidae and Limnephilidae). Canadian Entomologist 97(7):696, figs. 7, 7A-B (lateral view of male genitalia, dorsal view of tenth tergite medial sclerite, and lateral and dorsal view of aedeagus).

**TYPE MATERIAL:** *Holotype:* Adult male – California: New York Ravine, tributary of North Yuba River near Highway 49 (type locality corrected by Erman and Nagano, 1992). Deposited in California Academy of Sciences, type #16322.

**RANKING/STATUS:** G1G2S1S2 (NatureServe – CNDDDB).

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Male - length 13 mm, general color fulvous with indistinct light markings on apical margin, legs similar in color to wings, thorax and head fuscous with prominent light brown warts, palpi with thick dark brown setae, spurs 3-4-4. Female - 14 mm in length (to tip of folded wings), dark brown, abdomen purplish brown dorsally, wings brown and finely grainy, sternum VI with a minute mesal process. The larva of this species is unknown.

**DIAGNOSTIC CHARACTERS:** Adults can be distinguished from other species in the genus only by details of the genitalia, which are given in the original description (male) and in Fields, 1981 (female). The state of the larval taxonomy of this genus is insufficient to give even generic-level diagnostic characters.

**OTHER ILLUSTRATIONS:** Fields (1981) illustrated the female genitalia, figs. 3, 3A-C (female genitalia, lateral and dorsal views of 8<sup>th</sup> segment, lateral view of bursa copulatrix).

**DISTRIBUTION:** Placer, Plumas, and Sierra counties, California.

**HABITAT:** Erman and Nagano (1992) report that adults of this species have been collected from vegetation along second-order streams with rapidly flowing water.

**LIFE HISTORY/BEHAVIOR:** Unknown. Larvae of this genus are generally free-living and predaceous. Prior to pupation, the larvae construct a crude pupal enclosure from small stones, leaving spaces through which water currents can pass.

**SELECTED REFERENCES:**

- Erman, N.A. and C.D. Nagano. 1992. A review of the California caddisflies (Trichoptera) listed as candidate species on the 1989 federal "Endangered and threatened wildlife and plants; Animal notice of review." California Fish and Game 78(2):45-56.
- Fields, W.C., Jr. 1981. New species of *Rhyacophila* from California (Trichoptera: Rhyacophilidae). Pan-Pacific Entomologist 57(4):500-503.

Wiggins, G.B. 1996. Larvae of the North American caddisfly genera. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition.  
University of Toronto Press, Toronto. 457 pp.

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