

# cicada

## representative specimen

### FEATURES

The cicada is a large green-black insect (one to two inches in body length). All four wings are membranous (clear and thin). Three ocelli (simple eyes) are present. The male has sound-producing organs at the base of the abdomen on the belly side. Periodical cicadas have red eyes and wing veins. A pair of short antennae is located between the compound eyes.

### BEHAVIORS

Cicadas may be found statewide in Illinois. Depending on the type of cicada, the life cycle lasts four to five years, 13 years or 17 years. There are several different broods of both the 17-year cicadas and the 13-year cicadas. The broods emerge in different years. Periodical cicada adults appear in May and June. Usually there are several species emerging at once. After mating, each egg is laid in a separate slit made in a twig. The egg hatches to a nymph that leaves the twig, falls to the ground and enters the soil. Evidence of cicadas is easily seen from the dead, brown twig tips where the nymphs have emerged. The stout, brown nymph lives in the ground and eats roots. After emerging from the soil, the nymph usually crawls a short distance up a tree trunk before molting to the adult form. This brown, shed skin is commonly seen in summer. Adults live in trees, with males making a loud buzzing sound. The adult lives for about one month.

### TAXONOMY

Kingdom: Animalia  
Phylum: Arthropoda  
Class: Insecta  
Order: Hemiptera  
Family: Cicadidae

### ILLINOIS STATUS

common, native

### ILLINOIS RANGE





© Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 2024. *Biodiversity of Illinois*.  
Unless otherwise noted, photos and images © Illinois Department of Natural Resources.



adult



adult beginning to emerge

### **Aquatic Habitats**

none

### **Woodland Habitats**

upland deciduous forests

### **Prairie and Edge Habitats**

none