Stream Insects & Crustaceans

GROUP ONE TAXA
Pollution sensitive organisms found in good quality water.

1. Stonefly: Order Plecoptera. 1/2" - 1 1/2", 6 legs with hooked tips, antennae, 2 hair-like tails. Smooth (no gills) on lower half of body. (See arrow.)

2. Caddisfly: Order Trichoptera. Up to 1", 6 hooked legs on upper third of body, 2 hooks at back end. May be in a stick, rock or leaf case with its head sticking out. May have fluffy gill tufts on underside.

3. Water Penny: Order Coleoptera. 1/4", flat saucer-shaped body with a raised bump on one side and 6 tiny legs and fluffy gill tufts on the other side. Immature beetle.

4. Riffle Beetle: Order Coleoptera. 1/4", oval body covered with tiny hairs. 6 legs, antennae. Walks slowly underwater. Does not swim on surface.

5. Mayfly: Order Ephemeroptera. 1/4" - 1", brown, moving, plate-like or feathery gills on sides of lower body (see arrow), 5 large hooked legs, antennae, 2 or 3 long, hair-like tails. Tails may be webbed together.

6. Gilled Snail: Class Gastropoda. Shell opening covered by thin plate called operculum. When opening is facing you, shell usually opens on right.

7. Dobsonfly (Hellgrammimite): Family Corydalidae. 3/4" - 4", dark-colored, 6 legs, large pinching jaws, eight pairs leaves on lower half of body with paired cotton-like gill tufts along underside, short antennae, 2 tails and 2 pairs of hooks at back end.

GROUP TWO TAXA
Somewhat pollution tolerant organisms can be in good or fair quality water.


9. Sowbug: Order Isopoda. 1/4" - 3/4", gray ovoid body wider than it is high, more than 6 legs, long antennae.

Save Our Streams
Izaak Walton League of America
707 Conservation Lane
Gaithersburg, MD 20878-3983
(1800)BUG-IWLA
GROUP TWO TAXA CONTINUED

10 Scud: Order Amphipoda. 1/4", white to grey, body higher than it is wide, swims sideways, more than 6 legs, resembles small shrimp.

11 Alderfly Larva: Family Sialidae. 1" long, looks like small hagworm but has 1 long, thin, branched tail at back end (no hooks). No gill tufts underneath.

12 Freshfly Larva: Family Condylostylidae. Up to 1 1/2" long, looks like small hagworm but often a lighter reddish-tan color, or with yellowish stripes. No gill tufts underneath.

13 Damsel Fly: Suborder Zygoptera. 1/2" - 1", large eyes, 6 thin hooked legs, 3 broad air-shaped tails, positioned like a tripod. Smooth (no gills) on sides of lower half of body. (See arrow.)

14 Watersnipe Fly Larva: Family Athericidae (Atherix). 1/4" - 1", pale to green, tapered body, many caterpillar-like legs, conical head, feathery "horns" at back end.

15 Crane Fly: Suborder Nematocera. 1/8" - 2", milky green, or light brown, plump caterpillar-like segmented body, 4 finger-like lobes at back end.

16 Beetle Larva: Order Coleoptera. 1/4" - 1", light-colored, 6 legs on upper half of body, feelers, antennae.

17 Dragon Fly: Suborder Anisoptera. 1/2" - 2", large eyes, 6 hooked legs. Wide oval to round abdomen.

18 Clam: Class Bivalvia.

GROUP THREE TAXA

Pollution tolerant organisms can be in any quality of water.

19 Aquatic Worm: Class Oligochaeta. 1/4" - 2", can be very tiny; thin worm-like body.

20 Midge Fly Larva: Suborder Nematocera. Up to 1/4", dark head, worm-like segmented body, 2 tiny legs on each side.


22 Leech: Order Hirudinea. 1/4" - 2", brown, slimy body, ends with suction pads.

23 Pouch Snail and Pond Snail: Class Gastropoda. No operculum. Breathe air. When opening is facing you, shell usually opens on left.

24 Other Snails: Class Gastropoda. No operculum. Breathe air. Snail shell coils in one plane.