

A Key of Aquatic Macroinvertebrates (illustrations from <http://people.virginia.edu/~sos-iwla/>)

1a) Organism has segmented legs. Go to 2.



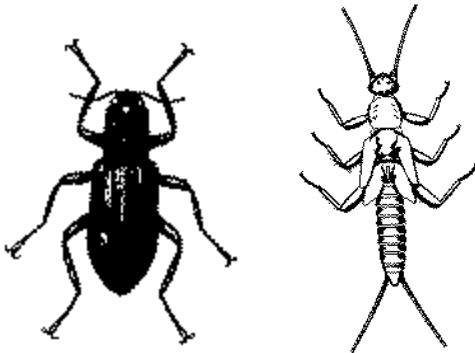
1b) Organism does not have segmented legs. Go to 10.



2a) Organism has more than six legs. Go to 3.



2b) Organism has six legs. Go to 4.



3a) The organism is looks like a miniature lobster. Crayfish.

3b). The organism is small, gray, and moves fast. Scud.

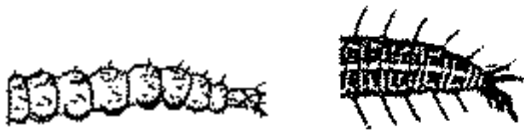


4a) Organism has one or no tail. Go to 5.



4b) Organism has two or three tails. Go to 8.

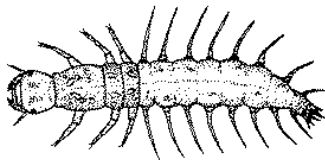
5a) Organism has a soft, grub-like abdomen. Go to 6.



5b). Organism has a plated, hard abdomen. Go to 7.



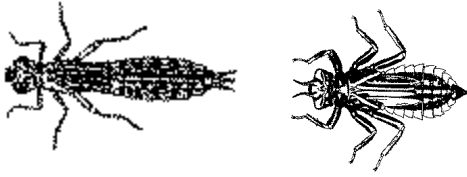
6a) Abdomen covered in long filaments, large pincers (WATCH OUT!). **Hellgrammite.**



6b) Abdomen lacking long filaments. Sometimes found in pebble or stick casing. **Caddis fly**



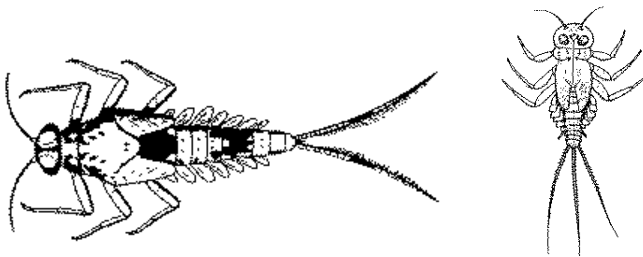
7a. Large eyes and wide abdomen. **Dragonfly.**



7b. Hard, stiff body that is either beetle-like or grub with tiny hooks at the posterior end. **Rifle beetle.**

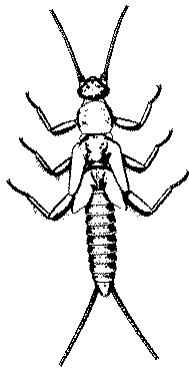


8a. Abdomen has gills on its side. Generally has three tails. **Mayfly.**



8b. Abdomen has no gills. May have two or three tails. Go to 9.

9a. Organism has two tails. **Stonefly.**



9b. Organism has three tails. **Damselfly.**



10a. Organism has not distinct head. **Crane fly.**

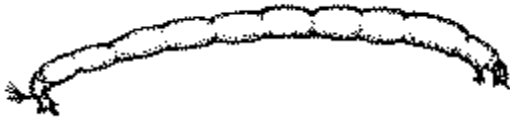


10b. Organism has a distinct head. Go to 11.

11a. Organism widens at the posterior end. **Black fly larvae.**



11b. Organism is of relatively uniform width. May be red in color. **Midge larvae.**



NOT INCLUDED IN THE KEY

True Bugs – the insects have long beak-like rostrums.



Group 1 – These organisms are generally considered to be intolerant to pollution



Alderfly Larva



Dobsonfly Larva



Snipe Fly Larva



Stonefly Larva

Group 2 – These organisms are generally considered to be moderately intolerant to pollution

Caddisfly Larvae



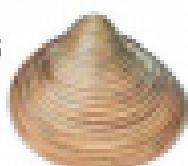
Free-swimming (green)



Clams



Fingernail



Atlantic



Mussels



Zebra Mussel



Water Penny

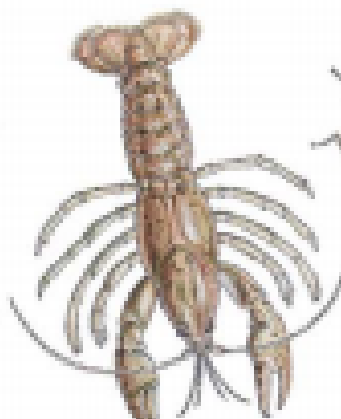
Damselfly Larvae



Broadwinged



Narrowwinged



Crayfish

Dragonfly Larvae



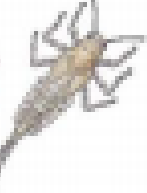
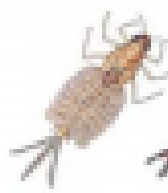
Skimmers



Darter



Mayfly Larvae



Group 3 – These organisms are generally considered to be fairly tolerant to pollution



Black Fly Larva



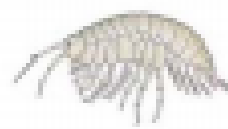
Midge Larva



Right-Handed



Left-Handed



Scurd

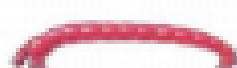


Sowbug

Group 4 – These organisms are generally considered to be very tolerant to pollution



Aquatic Worm



Bloodworm Midge Larva (bright red)



Leech



Left-Handed Snail

Other Aquatic Organisms (These organisms are not used as water quality indicators)

