

Family Affair

Aquatic Insect Family Tree

Aquatic insects are like other insects. They have six legs, three body segments, antennae, and sometimes wings. They also have an exoskeleton (a skeleton on the outside of the body). That helps them move food and objects much heavier than their own weight. A caddisfly larvae can make and

carry its own house of pebbles and sticks everywhere it goes!

Aquatic insects are different in one way from the insects we see on land. They are adapted to live part of their lives underwater. This family tree shows some of the aquatic insect groups.

Kingdom:
Animalia
(animals)

Phylum:
Arthropoda
(jointed-foot invertebrates)

Class:
Insecta
(insects)

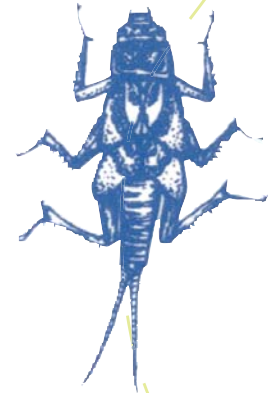
Mayflies (Ephemeroptera)



Left to right: Burrowing mayfly nymph; minnow mayfly nymph; flat-headed mayfly nymph

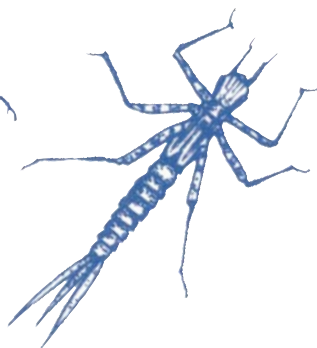
Stoneflies (Plecoptera)

Giant stonefly nymph; roach stonefly nymph; common stonefly nymph

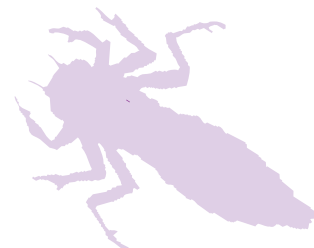


Above: Common stonefly nymph

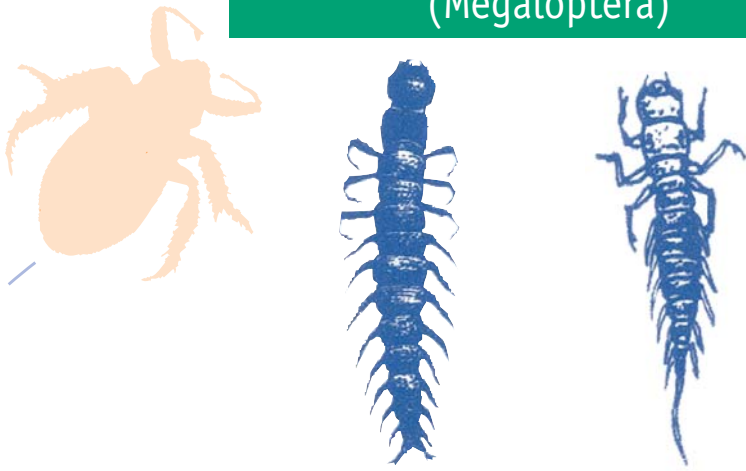
Dragonflies and damselflies (Odonata)



Left to right: Dragonfly nymph; damselfly nymph

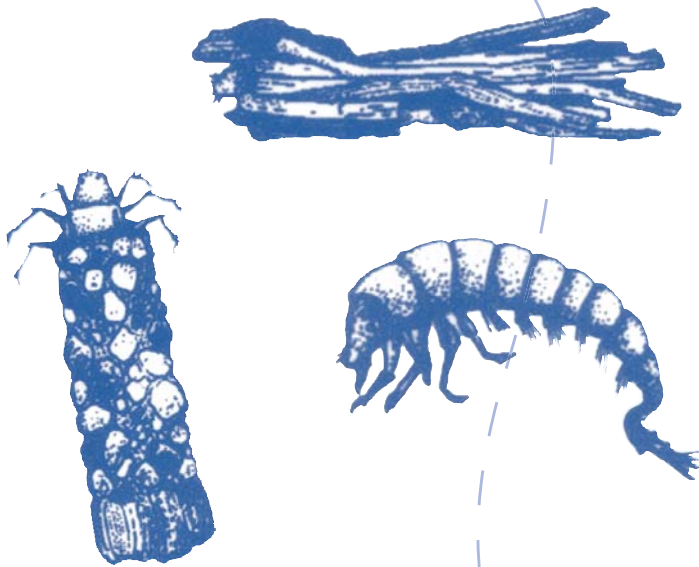


Alderflies, dobsons and fishflies (Megaloptera)



Left to right: Dobsonfly larva (hellgrammite); alderfly larva

Caddisflies (Trichoptera)



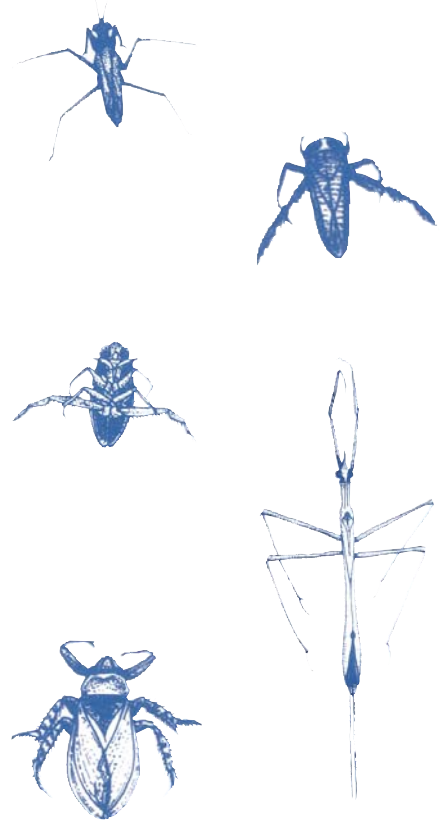
Top: Stick case-maker caddisfly larva
Bottom left to right: Stone case-maker caddisfly larva; net-spinning caddisfly larva

Beetles (Coleoptera)



Left to right: Water penny (larva); whirligig beetle; predaceous diving beetle

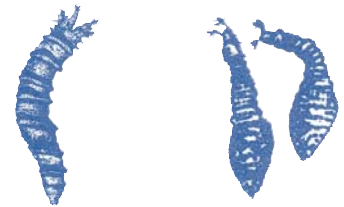
True bugs (Hemiptera)



Top to bottom (left to right): Water strider; water boatman; backswimmer; water scorpion; giant water bug

True flies (Diptera)

Cranefly larva; mosquito larvae; blackfly larva



Left to right: Cranefly larva; blackfly larva