

Match the Hatch

Knowledge of aquatic insects can make you a better angler. It helps to know which insect and life stage a fish is eating. Then you will know which bait or lure to use. Ever try a stone fly for trout? Or how about a hellgrammite for bass? They work great!

What do you do if you see trout feeding on caddisflies, or a bluegill feeding on whirligig beetles? Catch one of these

insects. Take a close look. Compare it to the lures in your tackle box. Then fish with the lure that looks most similar. You might choose a tiny brown caddisfly lure. Or maybe a small black popper. We call this process "matching the hatch."

Here is a quiz to test your aquatic insect knowledge. Match the larva or nymph to the adult stage.

It's the Law

Did you know that fishing regulations also apply to aquatic insects?

They are considered "fishbait." A fishing license is required if you are 16 or older. Anglers are allowed to possess up to 50 combined species of aquatic invertebrates at a time, including mudbugs (damselfly and dragonfly nymphs) from rivers or streams. An unlimited number of mudbugs can be possessed if taken from ponds or lakes.

To learn more about aquatic invertebrates, check the following fact sheets on the Commission's web site, www.fish.state.pa.us. Visit our Education Resources Catalog on the education page.

Types of Aquatic Insects:

- Caddis Flies
- Dobsonfly
- Dragons & Damsels
- Mayflies
- Stoneflies
- Pond and Stream Study Guide

Aquatic Insect Life Cycles & Adaptations:

- ENA or ELPA
- Macroinvertebrate Feeding Frenzy
- PLAY - Why Fish Need Trees (Aquatic Leaf Eaters)
- Water Walkers

1. Caddisfly larva



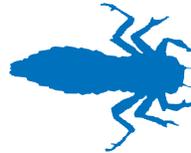
2. Stonefly nymph



3. Mayfly nymph



4. Dragonfly nymph



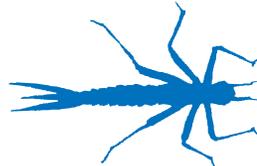
5. Hellgrammite



6. Crane fly larvae



7. Damselfly nymph



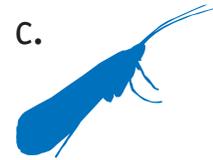
a.



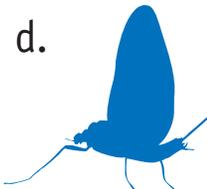
b.



c.



d.



e.



f.



g.



Answers
1. c; 2. g; 3. d; 4. f; 5. a; 6. e; 7. b