SAVE OUR STREAMS Guide to Aquatic Macroinvertebrates: The Basics



# Riffle Beetle Larva





- Small crunchy, comma shaped body, up to 1/2 inch
- 3 pairs of segmented legs
- Gills and 2 hooks on posterior end

#### **Riffle Beetle Adult**





- Oblong beetle shape, long antennae
- Small, 1/16 1/8 of an inch
- Walks slowly underwater, doesn't swim on surface

#### **Water Penny**





- Flat saucer-shaped body
- 3 tiny pairs of legs on the underside
- Up to 1/2 inch

# Mayfly





- Feather or leaf-like gills on the abdomen
- Typically has 3 tails
- 3 pairs of segmented legs

#### Stonefly





- Long antennae
- 2 tails
- No gills on abdomen
- 3 pairs of segmented legs

## Caddisflies

# (Case-making/Free living)





- May have a case constructed of sand, gravel, leaves or twigs
- ♦ Hardened head with grub-like soft body
- 3 pairs of segmented legs with hooks on the posterior

### **Common Net Spinning Caddisfly**





- Head and first three thoraxes are hardened
- 2 fleshy, hairy hooks on the posterior
- 3 pairs of segmented legs
- Gill tufts on abdomen

#### **Fishfly**





# Damselfly





- 3 broad oar-shaped tails
- Long, narrow body with no gills on abdomen
- 3 pairs of spindly segmented legs

#### Dragonfly



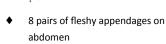


- Oval/round abdomen (may be wider than it is tall)
- 3 pairs of segment legs

# **Dobsonfly (Hellgrammite)**



- of appendages on abdomen with cotton-like gill tufts
- Large pinching jaw



- No gill tufts
- Forked posterior with 2 fleshly tails

# **Alderfly**





- 7 pairs of fleshy appendages on abdomen, no gill tufts
- One long thin branched tail

# **Guide to Aquatic Macroinvertebrates: The Basics**

#### Midge



- body
- Distinct head
- Pair of prolegs behind the head and at the posterior
- Up to 1/4 inch

#### Crayfish





- Lobster-like body
- Two large claws near the head
- 1/2 5 inches

#### **Gilled Snail**





- Shell opens to the right (dextral) when holding the shell with the narrow end pointing up and the opening facing you
- Has an operculum (thin plate covering the shell opening)

#### **Crane Fly**





- Plump, caterpillar-like, segmented body
- 4 fingerlike lobes at the posterior
- 1/2 1 inch

## Scud





- Shrimp-like body, no hard covering
- Long antennae
- 7 pairs of legs
- Swims quickly on its side

# **Lunged Snail**

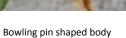




- Shell opens to the left when holding the shell with the narrow end pointing up and the opening facing you
- No operculum
- Shell might be in a coiled shape

### **Black Fly**





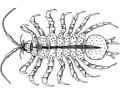
- Distinct head with one proleg directly underneath
- Up to 1/4 inch





# Sowbug





- Oblong body
- 2 pairs of antennae, one longer than the
- Armor-like appearance

# **Aquatic Worm**





- No distinct head
- No legs
- 1/4 2 inches

#### **Water Snipe**





- Soft, fleshy body with tapered ends
- Caterpillar-like legs
- 2 feathery 'horns' at the posterior

#### Clams & Mussels





- Fleshy body enclosed between two-hinged shells
- 1/8 5 inches

#### Leech





- Worm-like segmented body
- Both ends have suckers
- 1/4 2 inches

# Flatworm (Planarian)



- Soft elongated body
- Triangular shaped head with eyes on top

