

MARSH MONSTERS

Caddisfly Larva

Builds a tube-like home using bits of grass, leaves, sand grains and even old snail shells. Walks slowly along the bottom eating algae and small aquatic animals.



Case measures about 8 to 25 mm with larva inside

Dragonfly Nymph

Greenish in color, it usually walks slowly on the bottom or among vegetation. Eats worms, insects, small crustaceans and plankton.



Ranges from 10 mm to 45 mm

Mayfly Nymph

Similar to the damselfly nymph except the projections at the end of its body are finer. Eats algae, small animals and plant material.



Ranges from 7 mm to 40 mm

Backswimmer

The backswimmer is black and white in color with large red eyes. It is boat-shaped and swims along on its back using its legs like oars. Preys on insects and small fish. Often confused with water boatman.



Ranges from 7 mm to 15 mm

Leech

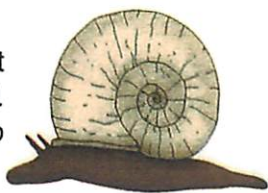
A flat-bodied, dark-colored, worm with a sucker at each end of its body. Abundant in calm, warm, shallow water. It swims waving in ribbon-like fashion or moves like an inchworm along the bottom. Eats snails, insect larvae and worms. Only a few suck blood.



Ranges from 9 mm to 80 mm and can even reach up to 125 mm in length

Snail

Moves around on a muscular foot extending out of a spiral or orb shell. Uses a rough "tongue" to scrape up algae and dead material for food.



Ranges from 5 mm to 36 mm in length



Copepod

This small crustacean is often called cyclops because of its single eye spot. Moves in constant, jerky swimming motion, eats dead plants and animals and is very tiny.



Less than 2 mm long

Damselfly Nymph

Usually found on the bottom or attached to plants underwater. Has three leaf-like gills at the end of its body, eats insects and plankton.



Ranges from 10mm to 34 mm

Giant Water Bug

This large, flat, brown bug is usually found among plants. It eats a variety of aquatic animals even tadpoles and small fish. Swims by kicking its hind legs.



Ranges from 20 mm to 60 mm

Sideswimmer

A freshwater shrimp, greyish in color that swims on its side by beating its many legs. Largely scavengers, some feed on plants.



Ranges from 5 mm to 20 mm long

(Dock) Fishing Spider

Having the ability to move across the top of the water without breaking the surface tension, the Dock Spider "fishes" by resting one or more of its feet on the water so that it can feel the vibrations of an insect trapped in the surface film of the water below.



Up to 25 mm body 75 mm from leg tip to leg tip

Water Boatman

Slender and black with fine yellow bars, this bug swims by paddling its long, skinny, oar-like legs. Eats algae, dead plants and animals. Often confused with backswimmer.



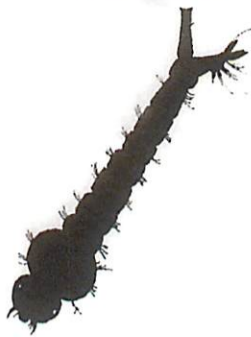
Ranges from 4 mm to 15 mm

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Mosquito Larva

“Little dark-colored sticks” that float under the surface and feed on algae and protozoa through brushes surrounding their mouth. Wiggles wildly downward from water surface when disturbed.

—|—| Ranges from 3 mm to 15 mm



Mosquito and Midge Pupa

A tiny, dark-colored comma floating under the water's surface. It breathes through hollow tubes sticking out of the top of its head.

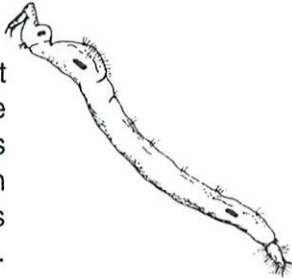
—|—| About 10 mm in size



Phantom Midge Larva

This ghost-like insect larva is almost invisible. Only its dark air sacs are clearly visible to the eye. It swims freely by flicking its body, then drifting. It hunts small crustaceans and insect larvae using its antennae.

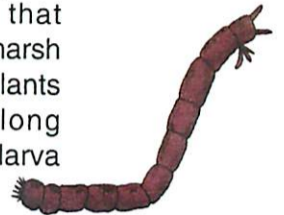
—|—| Ranges from 2 mm to 20 mm



Midge Larva

Dark red, worm-like larva (also known as a “Bloodworm”), that moves along the bottom of the marsh in the mud. Eats algae, tiny plants and other dead things along the bottom (note: some midge larva can be dark greenish).

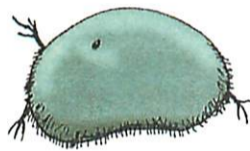
—|—| Ranges from 7 mm to 30 mm



Seed Shrimp

Tiny, crustacean that is greenish in color. Common in mats of algae and vegetation or mud on pond bottoms. Scurries around using its legs and antennae, filtering bacteria and dead plant material out of the water.

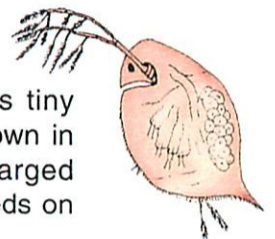
—|—| Ranges from 1 mm to 3 mm



Water Flea

Pink or orange in color, this tiny crustacean moves up and down in short hops by using its enlarged second pair of antennae. Feeds on algae and bacteria.

—|—| About 2 mm in size



Water Mite

Usually red (sometimes black), this tiny spider relative feeds on worms, small crustaceans, larvae and plankton. Swims by wildly beating its eight legs.

—|—| Ranges from 1 mm to 6 mm



Whirligig Beetle

This small, shiny black beetle is usually seen zooming around on the surface of the water. Each eye is divided into two parts so they can see above and below the water at the same time. Feeds on small insects.

—|—| Ranges from 9 mm to 10 mm



Predacious Diving Beetle (Larva)

Also called a “Water Tiger” because of its voracious appetite for insects. Has a long streamlined body and large mandibles (jaws) that they use to capture their prey, which can be anything from other Predacious Diving Beetles and aquatic insects, to tadpoles and even small fish. An active hunter, they swim by moving their body in an up and down motion.

—|—| Ranges from about 14 mm to 38 mm



Predacious Diving Beetle (Adult)

A shiny dark-brown beetle often with dull yellow markings on its sides. Swims by paddling its oar-like legs, and eats a variety of aquatic animals.

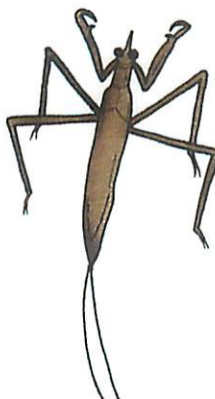
—|—| Ranges from 10 mm. to 35 mm.



Water Scorpion

Lives underwater but projects a breathing tube at the end of abdomen through surface from time to time. Feeds on insects, seizing its prey with strong front legs.

—|—| Reaches up to 50 mm



Water Strider

Runs on the surface of the water with its long, skinny legs. Feeds on small insects.

—|—| Ranges from 10 mm to 15 mm

