

Worm-like animals

1
POND HEALTH SCORE



Midge larvae

- Red, green, brown or transparent
- Wriggling movement



Flatworms

- Often black or grey
- Move by gliding



Rat-tailed maggot (hoverfly larvae)

- Long thin breathing tube
- Lives in mud



Worms

- Like a small earthworm



Leeches

- Suckers at either end
- Moves by stretching out body

Snails

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POND HEALTH SCORE



(a)



(b)

- Hard shell covering body
- Shell may be (a) pointed or (b) a flat coil
- Can vary greatly in size

Other animals

Note: you may find these other animals in your survey. While they are very interesting creatures, they do not give information about pond health, so they have no score.



Water mite

- Tiny spider-like animal

Water flea (*Daphnia*)

- Tiny animal
- Often in very large numbers



Water spider

- Silvery bubble over the body
- Lives under the water

Freshwater Invertebrate Identification Guide

This guide can be used for the OPAL Water Survey



Cased caddisfly larvae

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POND HEALTH SCORE



- Body within a case; insect hides when disturbed
- Case can be made of small stones, sand grains or plant material
- Look for sticks that crawl!

Dragonfly larvae

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- Fat body
- Angular head
- No tails but 5 short spines at the end of the body

Caseless caddisfly larvae

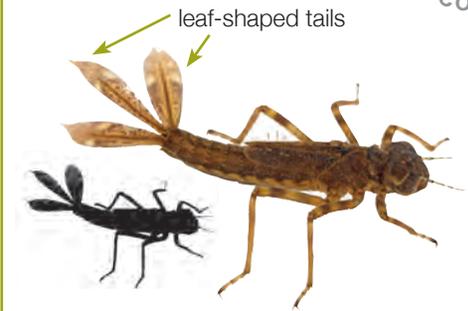
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POND HEALTH SCORE



- A bit like a thin caterpillar
- 3 pairs of legs at the front
- Hooks at the end of body
- Crawls rather than swims

Damselfly larvae

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POND HEALTH SCORE



- Angular head
- 3 leaf-shaped tails (one or more may be lost)

Silhouettes show maximum life size. Animals may be smaller than this. If no silhouette is shown, the photograph is at life size. Larvae are the young of aquatic insects.

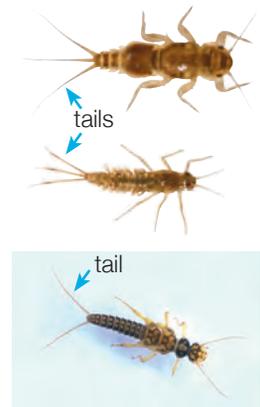
Higher scoring invertebrates need cleaner water to live in

Alderfly larvae



- One tail
- Tapering body
- Pincer-like jaws
- Fine gills along the body

Mayfly and stonefly larvae



Mayfly larvae

- 3 thin tails
- Swim in short darting movements

Stonefly larvae

- 2 thin tails
- Generally moves by crawling

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Water beetles



- Hard shiny wing cases covering the body
- Oval-shaped, 6 legs
- May have bubble attached to the back
- Scavenging water beetles have a less streamlined shape

Beetle larvae

- Larvae are very varied; some have distinct heads, pincer-like jaws, tapering bodies and obvious legs
- Many have two tails (check these are not mayflies that have lost a tail)
- Others are more caterpillar-like with very short legs and fat bodies

Water bugs



Backswimmers

- Swim on their backs, just under the water surface
- Use long hair-fringed legs as oars



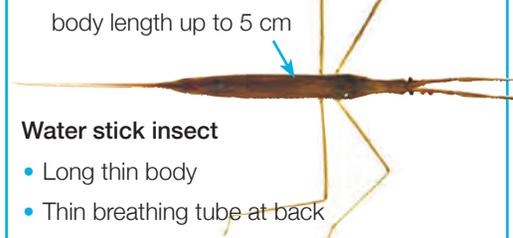
Lesser water boatmen

- Swim the right way up
- Wing cases look black/brown but close up are speckled or striped



Water scorpion

- Dark-coloured crawling insect
- Front legs pincer-like
- Long thin breathing tube at back of body (in adult)



Water stick insect

- Long thin body
- Thin breathing tube at back

Pond skaters



- Skate on the water surface
- 4 long skating legs and 2 short legs at the front
- Pair of antennae

Water shrimps



- Curved, flattened bodies
- Long antennae
- May appear slightly transparent
- Swim quickly on their sides

Water slaters



- Looks like a woodlouse
- Flattened body
- Moves by crawling

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 cm