

Macroinvertebrate Guide

Mayfly - Scraper



Identifying Features: 3 tails

Life Facts: Mayflies are only able to fly for one day before dying. They can only live in freshwater, and because of that are a good indicator of water quality.

Caddis Fly - Shredder



Identifying Features: long body, some live in and leave behind casings

Life Facts: Caddisfly can live in many environments, but are more diverse in cold clean water. They construct casings for themselves from silk, sand or sticks as shelter.

Dragonfly - Predator



Identifying Features: Thicker body

Life Facts: Dragonfly nymphs are carnivores and feed on other bugs as well as some small fish. They live under water for up to 4 years.

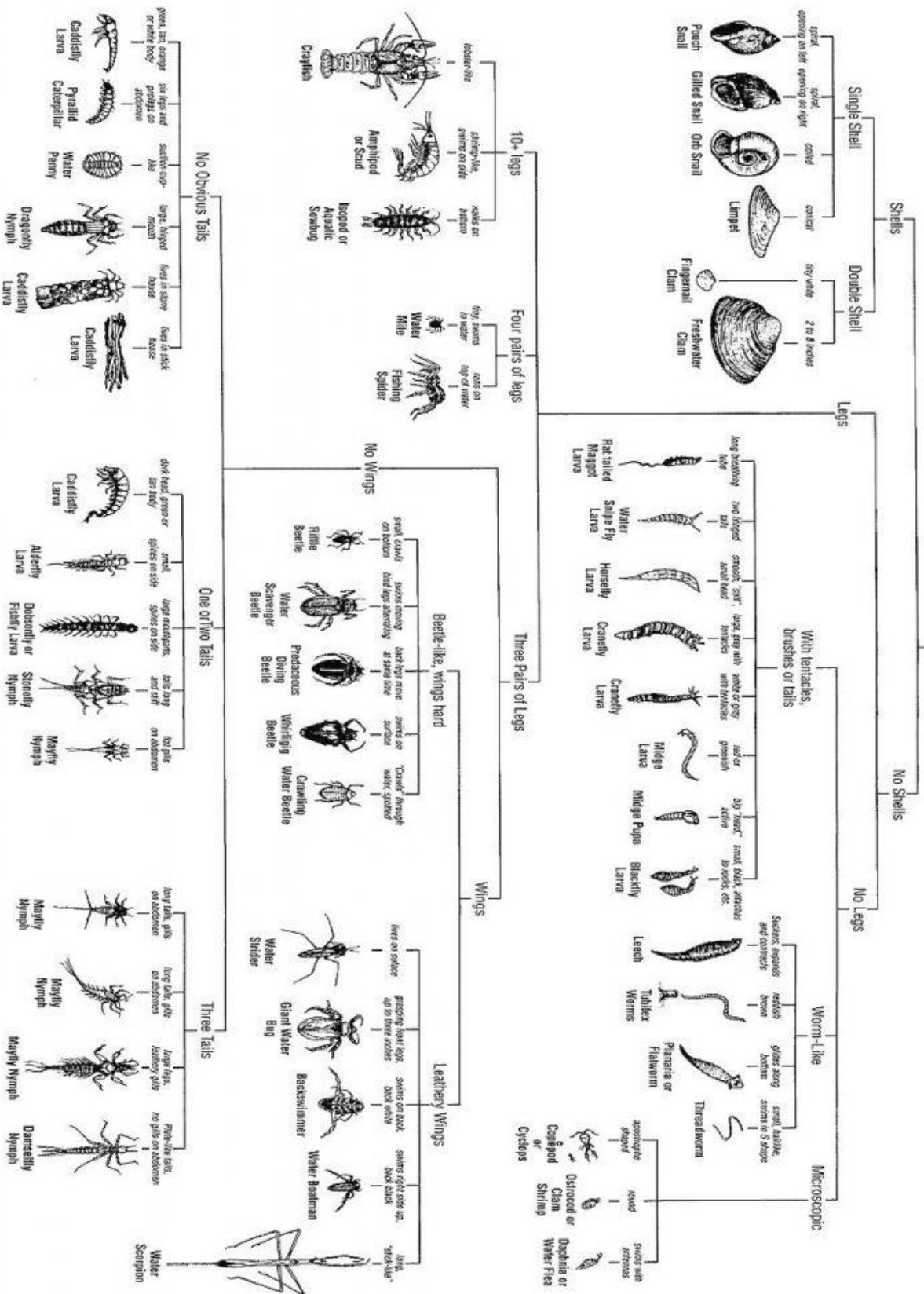
Stonefly - Collector



Identifying Features: 2 tails, distinct thorax sections

Life Facts: Stoneflies start out as herbivores and transition into carnivores. They can only live in freshwater, and because of that are a good indicator of water quality.

Key to Macroinvertebrate Life in the River



Developed by University of Wisconsin-Extension in cooperation with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. May be reproduced for educational, non-profit purposes. For information contact UWEX Environmental Resources Center 608/785-0200.