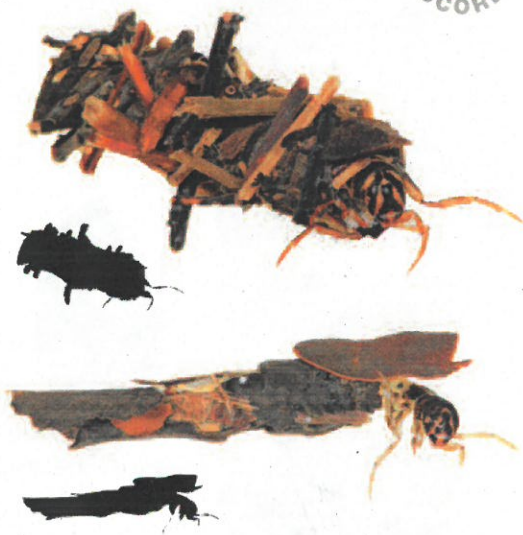


Guide to the main groups of pond invertebrates

Cased caddisfly larvae

POND HEALTH
SCORE 10



- 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

POND HEALTH
SCORE 10



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

Caseless caddisfly larvae

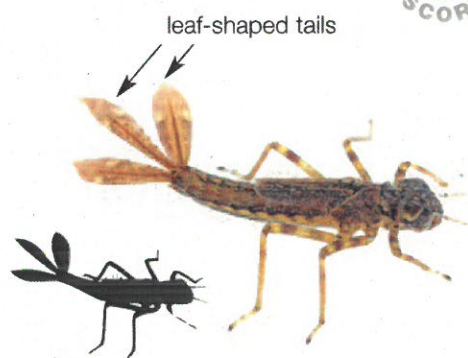
POND HEALTH
SCORE 10



- 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

POND HEALTH
SCORE 10

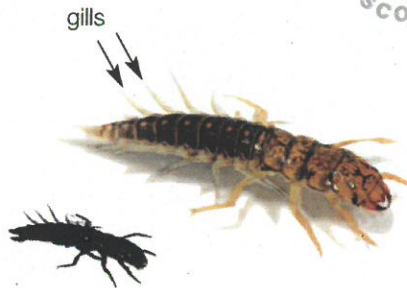


- Angular head
- 3 leaf-shaped tails (one or more may be lost)

Larvae are the young of aquatic insects

Alderfly larvae

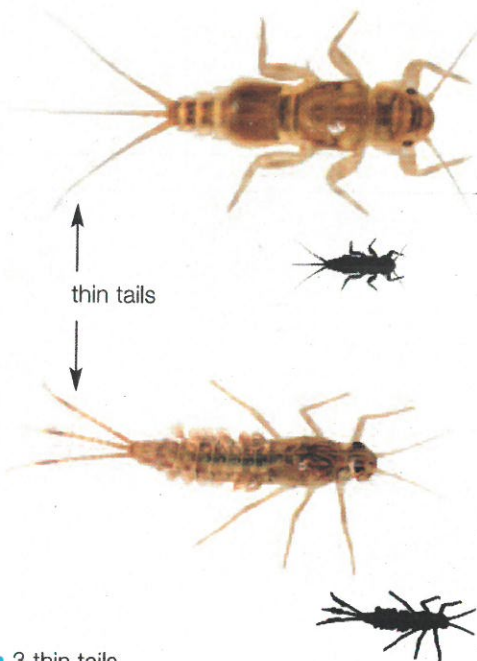
POND HEALTH SCORE 10



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

Mayfly larvae

POND HEALTH SCORE 5



- 3 thin tails
- Swims in short darting movements

Water beetles

POND HEALTH SCORE 5



size range



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



FSC

Water bugs

POND HEALTH
SCORE
5



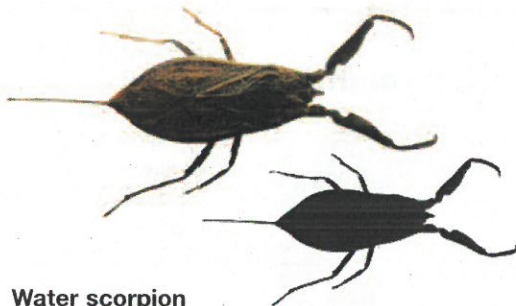
Backswimmers

- 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)

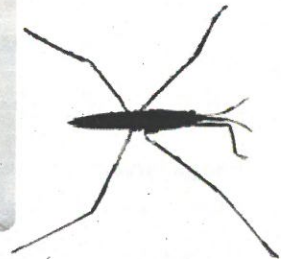
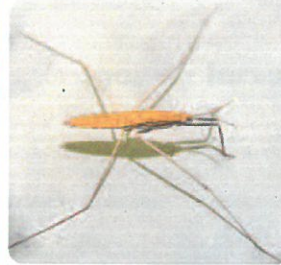
body length up to 5 cm

Water stick insect

- Long thin body
- Thin breathing tube at back

Pond skaters

POND HEALTH
SCORE
5



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

Water shrimps

POND HEALTH
SCORE
5



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

Water slaters

POND HEALTH
SCORE
1



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

Worm-like animals

POND HEALTH
SCORE
1



Midge larvae

- Red, green, brown or transparent
- Wriggling movement



Flatworms

- Often black or grey
- Move by gliding



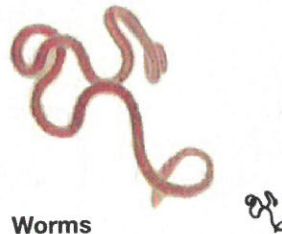
Leeches

- Suckers at either end
- Moves by stretching out body



Rat-tailed maggots (hoverfly larvae)

- Long thin breathing tube
- Lives in mud

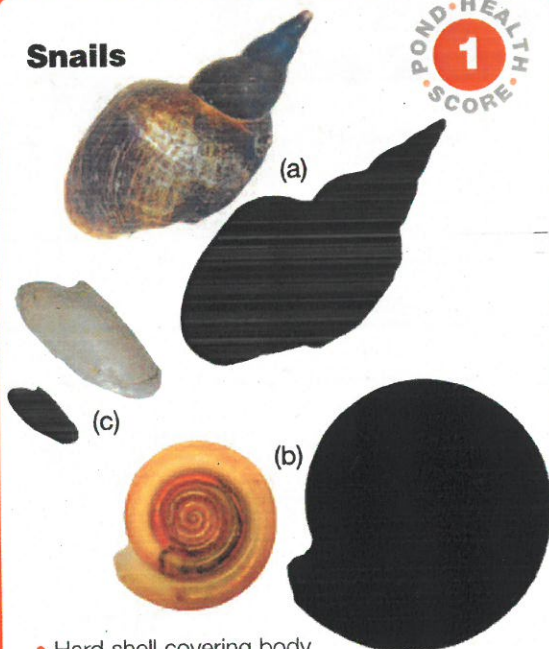


Worms

- Earthworm-like

Snails

POND HEALTH
SCORE
1



- Hard shell covering body
- Shell may be (a) pointed, (b) a flat coil or (c) limpet shaped
- 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.



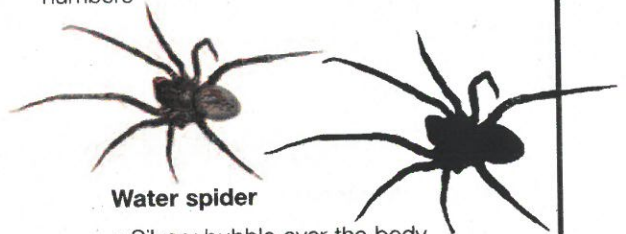
Water flea

- Tiny animal
- Often in very large numbers



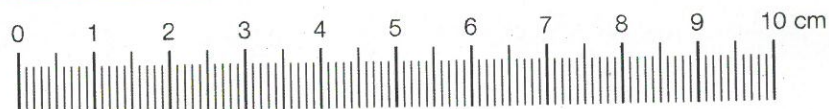
Water mite

- Tiny spider-like animal



Water spider

- Silvery bubble over the body
- Lives under the water



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