

Ephemeroptera

Mayfly Larva

Native to Maine

Freshwater
Ponds, Lakes, Rivers, and Streams

Larval Form

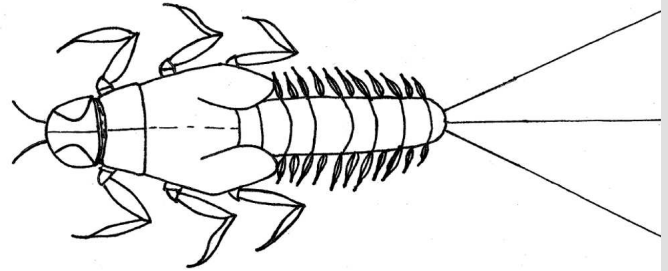


Valter Jacinto



Look for an aquatic insect with 6 legs with one claw on each leg. They usually have 3 long tails, though a few species have 2 long tails. Mayfly larvae have gills on their abdomens.

Larva Illustration



R. Martin



Look for a small (0.3 - 3 cm) insect that is brown to green in color. Some mayfly species move their gills to increase the amount of water (and oxygen) flowing around the gills.

Variations and Details

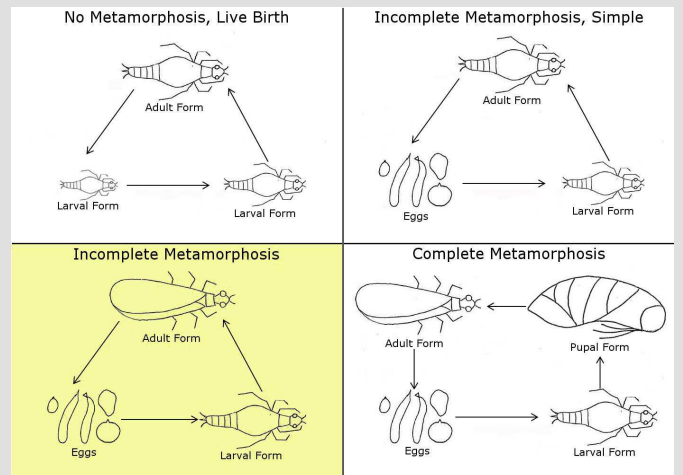


Picasa Nephron, Flickr C. Fungi, Bedwetting in Aus



Some mayfly species are flat and live under stones in fast-flowing water. Some cylinder-shaped mayfly species are good swimmers and other species live in small burrows.

Life Cycle Diagram



Adult Form



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Adults usually have 2 pairs of triangular wings. One pair is quite small. Mayflies hold their wings upright. Adults have 2 short antennae and 2 or 3 tails. They mate in large swarms.

Similar Species

Mayfly larvae are similar to stonefly larvae in shape and size. To tell them apart, mayflies have one claw per leg and gills on their abdomens. Stoneflies have two claws per leg and no gills on their abdomens. Some stonefly species have gills at the base of their legs.

Fun Fact

The lifespan of an adult mayfly can last from 30 minutes to two days depending on the species. The mouthparts of the adult mayfly are not functional, and their digestive system is filled with air.

Sensitive to Pollution



Gulf of Maine
Research Institute



www.vitalsignsme.org

Researched and created by Rebecca Martin

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