

# Megaloptera

Alderfly

Native to Maine

Freshwater  
Rivers and Streams

## Larval Form

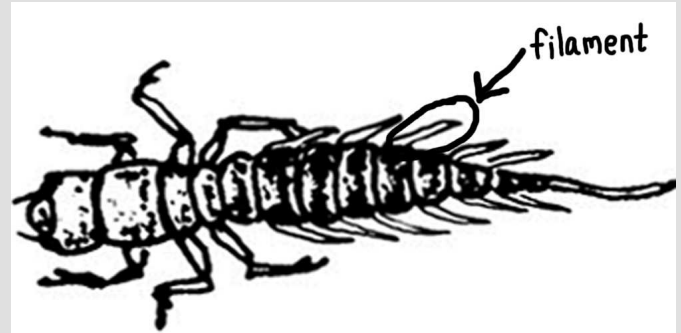


Andre Karwath



Look for a long, segmented body with a hard head. There are seven pairs of filaments extending from the side of the body and one tail-like filament on the end of the abdomen.

## Larva Illustration



University of Wisconsin



Look for gills near the base of each filament.

## Variations and Details

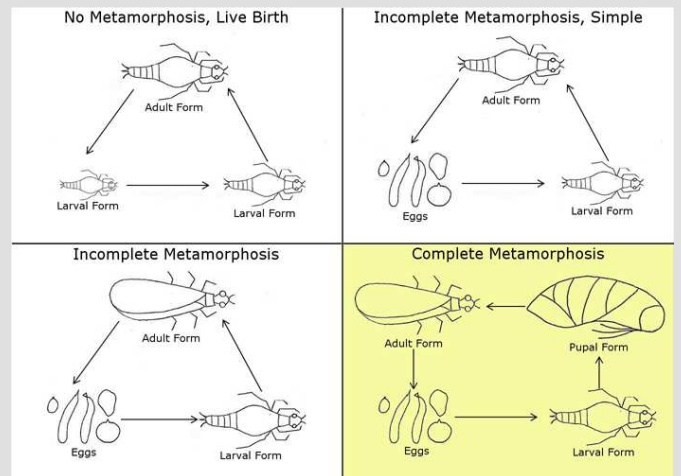


Flickr.com user marionbarlow

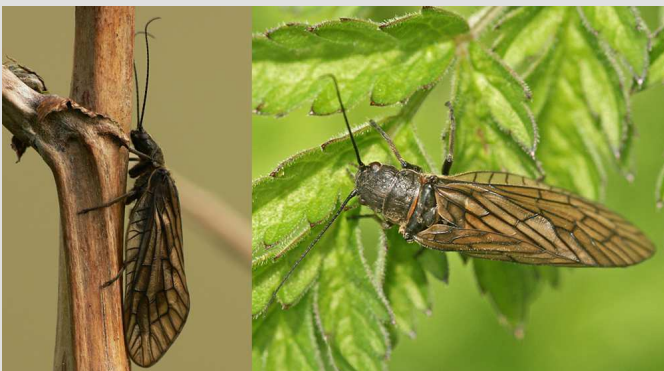


Most alderflies are brown and have distinct hairs on the tail filament. They are typically 17-20 mm long.

## Life Cycle Diagram



## Adult Form



Flickr.com users Walwyn and nutmeg66



Adults have long wings that fold to form a tent over the back of the body. The head is brown or black.

## Similar Species

Alderflies are similar to dobsonflies. Dobsonflies are normally 10-65 mm longer than alderflies. Alderflies are hairier than dobsonflies. Dobsonfly abdomens end in a pair of short spiny legs while the alderfly ends in a long, tail-like filament.

## Did You Know?

Alderfly larvae are twice as large in Australia as they are in the United States. There they have earned the nickname "toe-biters!"

Intolerant of pollution.



Gulf of Maine  
Research Institute



[www.vitalsignsme.org](http://www.vitalsignsme.org)