

Trichoptera

Caddisfly Larva

Native to Maine

Freshwater
Ponds, Lakes, Rivers, and Streams

Larval Form

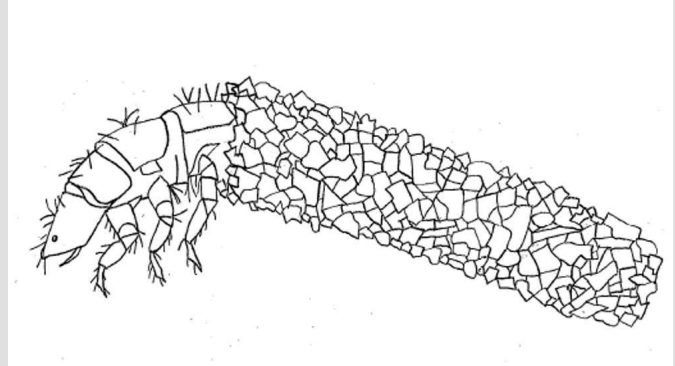


Flickr user divinenephron



Look for a worm-like insect with 6 legs near its head. The bodies of caddisfly larvae are soft and segmented and they have hairlike gills on their abdomens.

Larva Illustration



R. Martin



Look for an insect that is 0.3 to 4 cm long and often seen "wearing" a protective case made of silk and other materials. Caddisfly cases are carried by the insect or attached to rocks.

Variations and Details

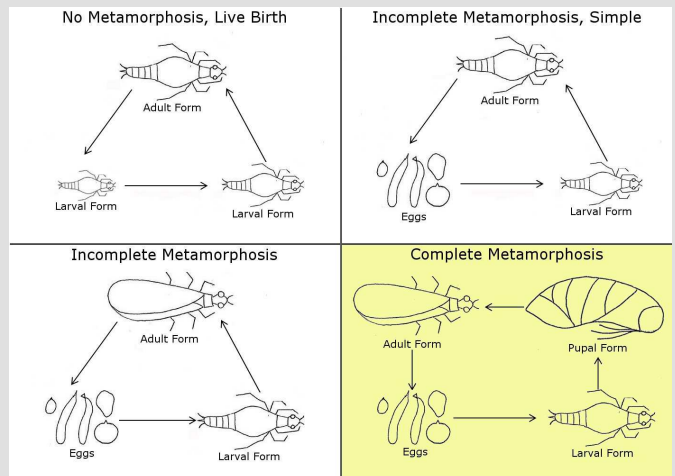


Biopix, eol.org



Some caddisfly species make cases out of materials like sand, sticks, leaves, or pebbles. Some species build silk nets to catch food, while other species actively hunt prey.

Life Cycle Diagram



Adult Form



Picasa user Tristram



Look for a small moth-like insect with two pairs of hairy wings. Adults have long hair-like antennae.

Similar Species

Caddisfly Larvae look similar to a few aquatic moth species. Caddisfly larvae have two prolegs (fleshy foot-like structures) at the rear of their body that end in hooks, which aquatic moths do not have. Also, many species of caddisfly larvae build and "wear" a protective case of some type.

Fun Fact

Different species of caddisfly larvae have different feeding habits. Caddisfly larvae can be predators, leaf shredders, algal grazers, or collectors.

Sensitive to Pollution



Gulf of Maine
Research Institute



www.vitalsignsme.org

Researched and created by: Rebecca Martin

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