

Bar lines indicate relative size

Stream Insects & Crustaceans

GROUP ONE TAXA

Pollution sensitive organisms found in good quality water.

- 1 **Stonefly:** Order Plecoptera. 1/2" - 1 1/2", 6 legs with hooked tips, antennae, 2 hair-like tails. Smooth (no gills) on lower half of body. (See arrow.)
- 2 **Caddisfly:** Order Trichoptera. Up to 1", 6 hooked legs on upper third of body, 2 hooks at back end. May be in a stick, rock or leaf case with its head sticking out. May have fluffy gill tufts on lower half.
- 3 **Water Penny:** Order Coleoptera. 1/4", flat saucer-shaped body with a raised bump on one side and 6 tiny legs on the other side. Immature beetle. Three views.
- 4 **Riffle Beetle:** Order Coleoptera. 1/4", oval body covered with tiny hairs, 6 legs, antennae. Walks slowly underwater. Does not swim on surface.
- 5 **Mayfly:** Order Ephemeroptera. 1/4" - 1", brown, moving, plate-like or feathery gills on sides of lower body (see arrow), 6 large hooked legs, antennae, 2 or 3 long, hair-like tails. Tails may be webbed together.
- 6 **Gilled Snail:** Class Gastropoda. Shell opening covered by thin plate called operculum. Shell usually opens on right.
- 7 **Dobsonfly (Hellgrammite):** Family Corydalidae. 3/4" - 4", dark-colored, 6 legs, large pinching jaws, eight pairs feelers on lower half of body with paired cotton-like gill tufts along underside, short antennae, 2 tails and two small hooks at back end.

GROUP TWO TAXA

Somewhat pollution tolerant organisms can be in fair quality water.

- 8 **Crayfish:** Order Decapoda. Up to 6", 2 large claws, 8 legs, resembles small lobster.
- 9 **Sowbug:** Order Isopoda. 1/4" - 3/4", gray oblong body wider than it is high, more than 6 legs, long antennae.

Save Our Streams

Izaak Walton League of America
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Arlington, VA 22209

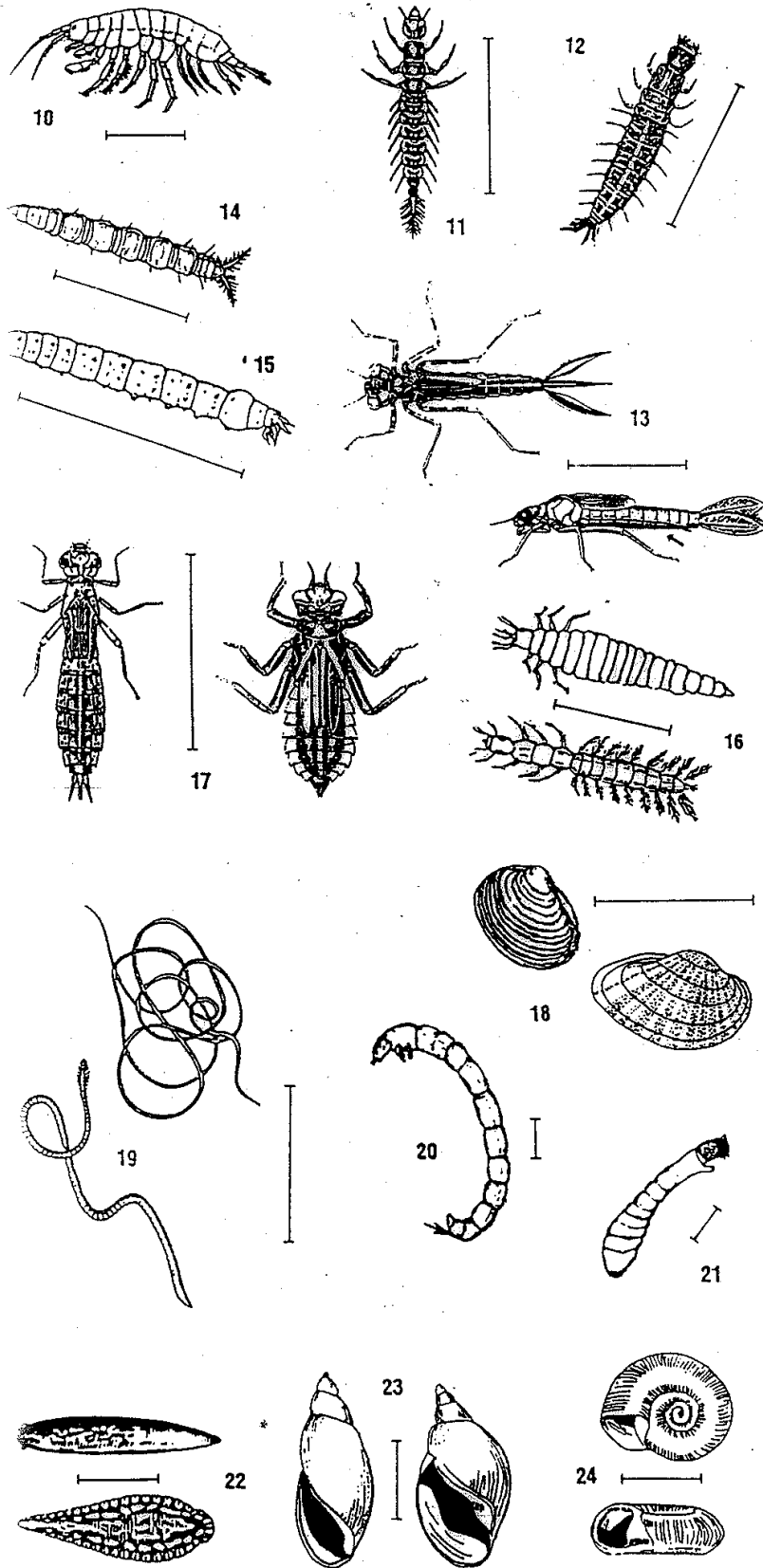
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GROUP TWO TAXA continued

- 10 *Scud: Order Amphipoda.* 1/4", white to grey, body higher than it is wide, swims sideways, more than 6 legs, resembles small shrimp.
- 11 *Alderfly larva: Family Sialidae.* 1" long. Looks like small hellgrammite but has 1 long, thin, branched tail at back end. No gill tufts underneath.
- 12 *Fishfly larva: Family Corydalidae.* Up to 1 1/2" long. Looks like small hellgrammite but often a lighter reddish-tan color, or with yellowish streaks. No gill tufts underneath.
- 13 *Damselfly: Suborder Zygoptera.* 1/2" - 1", large eyes, 6 thin hooked legs, 3 broad oar-shaped tails, positioned like a tripod. Smooth (no gills) on sides of lower half of body. (See arrow.)
- 14 *Watersnipe Fly Larva: Family Athericidae (Atherix).* 1/4" - 1", pale to green, tapered body, many caterpillar-like legs, conical head, feathery "horns" at back end.
- 15 *Crane Fly: Suborder Nematocera.* 1/3" - 2", milky, green, or light brown, plump caterpillar-like segmented body, 4 finger-like lobes at back end.
- 16 *Beetle Larva: Order Coleoptera.* 1/4" - 1", light-colored, 6 legs on upper half of body, feelers, antennae.
- 17 *Dragon Fly: Suborder Anisoptera.* 1/2" - 2", large eyes, 6 hooked legs. Wide oval to round abdomen.
- 18 *Clam: Class Bivalvia.*

GROUP THREE TAXA

Pollution tolerant organisms can be in poor quality water.

- 19 *Aquatic Worm: Class Oligochaeta.* 1/4" - 2", can be very tiny; thin worm-like body.
- 20 *Midge Fly Larva: Suborder Nematocera.* Up to 1/4", dark head, worm-like segmented body, 2 tiny legs on each side.
- 21 *Blackfly Larva: Family Simuliidae.* Up to 1/4", one end of body wider. Black head, suction pad on end.
- 22 *Leech: Order Hirudinea.* 1/4" - 2", brown, slimy body, ends with suction pads.
- 23 *Pouch Snail and Pond Snails: Class Gastropoda.* No operculum. Breathe air. Shell usually opens on left.
- 24 *Other snails: Class Gastropoda.* No operculum. Breathe air. Snail shell coils in one plane.

