



# River Minibeasts – What Lives on the Bottom of Rivers

## MAYFLY NYMPHS



Mayfly nymphs come in a variety of shapes and sizes, all have gills down the side of their body and 3 tails.

## CASED CADDISFLY LARVAE



## CASE-LESS CADDISFLY LARVAE



Caddis fly larvae fall into 2 main categories. Cased Caddis fly larvae (left) make a house out of stones, sticks or pieces of plant, while case-less Caddis (right and centre) do not.

## STONEFLY NYMPHS



Stonefly nymphs are easily identified as they always have slender bodies and 2 tails. They vary in size from a few mm to 3 or 4 cm.

## LEECH



Leeches are very common in almost all types of freshwater. They have soft, stretchy, segmented bodies with suckers at the front and back.

## WATER BEETLE



Water beetles are often found in fly life samples and most people can recognise their distinctive beetle shape.

## FRESHWATER SHRIMP



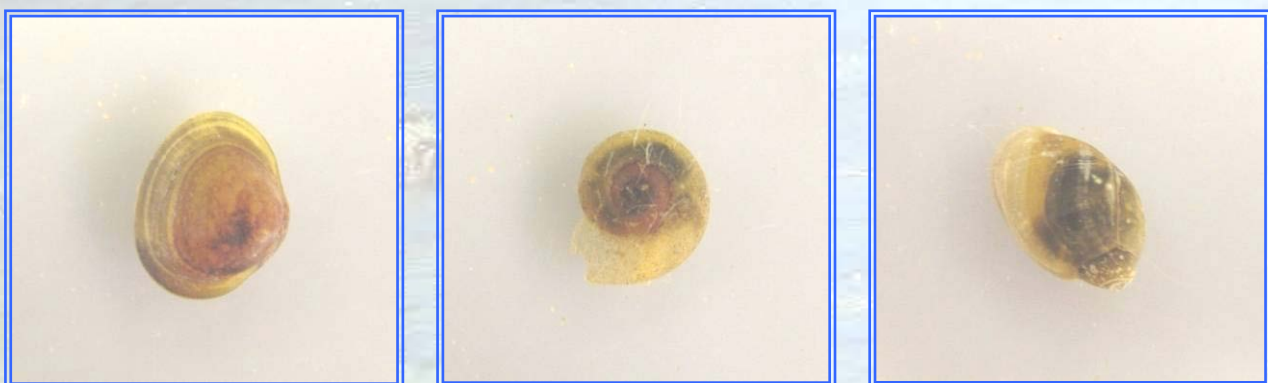
The curved shape and of the Freshwater Shrimp makes it easy to identify. It always swims on its side.

## WATER SLATER



Water Slaters greatly resemble their close cousin the Wood Louse. They walk on the river bed and never swim.

## WATER SNAILS



Freshwater Snails come in a wide variety of shapes and sizes, from left to right, a Pea Mussel, a Ramshorn Snail and a Pond Snail. Most Snails prefer slow flowing or still waters like ponds and move using a large muscular foot.

## TRUE FLY LARVAE



True fly larvae come in a variety of shapes and sizes. On the left is a Crane fly (or Daddy Long-legs) larvae, in the middle is a non-biting Midge larvae (which is also known as a bloodworm) and on the right is a black-fly larvae. All are common in the Tweed