



Stream Life

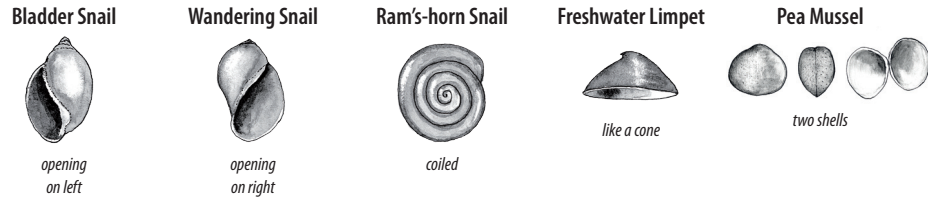
A Key to identify some of the freshwater invertebrates found in streams

Developed by EcoRecord and E. Pisolkar on behalf of The Environment Agency
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Shell

No shell



Legs

No legs

More than 3 pairs of legs

3 pairs of legs

Cranefly larva

Blackfly larva

Leech

Worm

Flatworm

Plume Midge larva

Water Mite

tiny moving balls, may be brightly coloured

Water Slater

like a woodlouse

Freshwater 'Shrimp'

swims on its side

6 tentacles at tail end

dumb bell-shaped, moves by looping

sucker at each end, can expand and contract

like a small earthworm, no obvious head

flat, glides

distinct head, red, brown or green body

No wings

Wings

Beetles - hard wing cases

Bugs - leather wing cases

Riffle Beetle

tiny (1-3mm), stiff, slow-moving

Water Beetle

a variety of sizes

Water Cricket

runs on surface

Pond Skater

skates on surface

Lesser Water Boatman

swims right way up

Backswimmer

swims upside down

Water Scorpion

flat and brown

1, 2 or no tails

3 tails

Dragonfly larva

walks but can dart if disturbed, 5 short spines at end of body

Cased Caddisfly larva

case of leaves sticks or stones, moves about

Tortoise Cased Caddisfly larva

stone case rounded above, flat beneath, attached to rocks

Caseless Caddisfly larva

head distinct

Stonefly larva

two thin tails, wing buds

Diving Beetle larva

large pincers, no wing buds

Alderfly larva

one tail, gills on side of body, pincers

Blue-winged Olive Mayfly larva

3 thin tails, stripy legs and tail - wiggles

Olive Mayfly larva

3 thin tails, middle one shorter, legs not stripy

Flat-bodied Mayfly larva

broad head

Damselfly larva

tail filaments like flat plates