

## Macroinvertebrate Identification Sheet Set Key

1. A. Has a shell . . . . . *Snail*  
 B. Does not have a shell. . . . . go to 2
2. A. Segmented legs . . . . . go to 3  
 B. No segmented legs . . . . . go to 4
3. A. Worm-like, small posterior legs, often C-shaped, ½" long . . . . . *Midge Larva*  
 B. Not as above . . . . . go to 5
4. A. Slender worm-like appearance . . . . . *Aquatic worm*  
 B. Can be up to 3" long. May have fleshy, finger-like extensions at one end. . . . . *Crane fly larva*
5. A. Uses wings to fly . . . . . go to 6  
 B. Does not use wings to fly . . . . . go to 7
6. A. Wings vertical at rest, long tail-like appendages . . . . . *Mayfly adult*  
 B. Wings horizontal at rest, large eyes . . . . . *Dragonfly adult*
7. A. Six true legs . . . . . go to 9  
 B. More than six true legs . . . . . go to 8
8. A. Looks like small lobster, 2 large front claws. . . . . *Crayfish*  
 B. Looks like small shrimp, swims quickly on its side. . . . . *Scud*
9. A. Body, oval and flat, head and legs concealed beneath body . . . . . *Water penny*  
 B. Body longer than it is wide . . . . . go to 10
10. A. Two or three distinct long "tails" . . . . . go to 11  
 B. Not as above . . . . . go to 13
11. A. Two "tails," may have hair-like gills under thorax . . . . . *Stonefly nymph*  
 B. More than two "tails" . . . . . go to 12
12. A. Up to 2" in length, "tails" (actually gills) more paddle-like . . . . . *Damselfly nymph*  
 B. Up to 1" in length, long slender tails . . . . . *Mayfly nymph*
13. A. Beetle-like body. . . . . go to 14  
 B. Body not beetle-shaped. . . . . go to 15
14. A. Swims slowly on bottom . . . . . *Riffle beetle*  
 B. Swims on backside with oar-like strokes. . . . . *Backswimmer*
15. A. Fat abdomen, large eyes, up to 2" in length . . . . . *Dragonfly nymph*  
 B. Not as above . . . . . go to 16
16. A. May be hiding in a case made of sand, gravel, or plant material . . . . . *Caddisfly larva*  
 B. Not as above . . . . . go to 17
17. A. Well defined lateral filaments from multiple abdominal segments . . . . . *Dobsonfly larva (Hellgrammite)*  
 B. Not as above . . . . . go to 18
18. A. ¼ to 1" long, distinct head, small legs. . . . . *Beetle larva*  
 B. Not as above . . . . . go to 19
19. A. Moves quickly along the surface of the water. . . . . *Water strider*  
 B. Often seen beneath the surface of the water  
 and uses strong pincher-like forelegs for grasping prey . . . . . *Water scorpion*