


Macroinvertebrate Identification Key

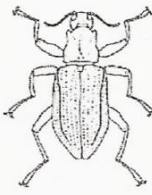
(Macroinvertebrate are any animal lacking a backbone and large enough to see without the aid of a microscope.)


One quick indicator of the health of a water body is to identify the types of macroinvertebrates found in the water (as seen on this chart). Lab testing of water samples is the most reliable method of water quality testing.


Neponset River Watershed Association staff and volunteers take water samples 6 times a year from 41 different sites in the Watershed and have them lab tested to monitor the water quality in our river, streams, and ponds. To learn more or to become a volunteer water sampler, visit neponset.org or email outreach@neponset.org


GROUP 1 *These organisms are generally pollution-intolerant.*
Their dominance generally signifies EXCELLENT-GOOD WATER QUALITY

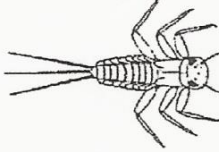

 RIFFLE BEETLE
(larva)



 RIFFLE BEETLE
(adult)



 STONEFLY
(nymph)


 CADDISFLY
(larva)



 SNAIL



 MAYFLY
(nymph)

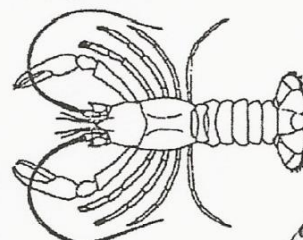

 MAYFLY
(nymph)



 SNAIL
opens to the right


GROUP 2 *These organisms exist in a WIDE RANGE of water quality conditions*

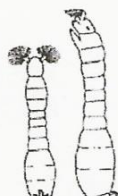

 DRAGONFLY
(nymph)

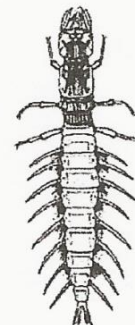

 CRANEFLY
(larva)



 CRAYFISH



 FILTERING
CADDISFLY
(Hydropsychidae)
(larva)


 BLACKFLY
(pupa)



 BLACKFLY
(larva)



 HELLGRAMMITE
(Dobsonfly)
(larva)



 SOWBUG



 SCUD

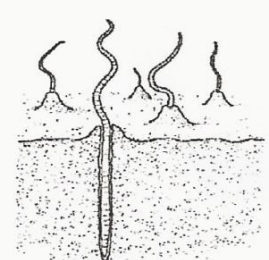
GROUP 3 *These organisms are generally tolerant of pollution.*
Their dominance usually signifies FAIR-POOR WATER QUALITY


 MIDGE
(larva)


 MIDGE
(larva)


 MIDGE
(pupa)


 POUCH
SNAIL
(Physidae)
opens to the left


 AQUATIC WORM