



Whose babies live under the water?

Macroinvertebrates are small critters that inhabit stream bottoms. Some are insect babies, called nymphs or larvae. After metamorphosis, the adults live on land. How many have you seen?

Found on stream bottoms

Found on land



Dragonfly nymph

All of Michigan's dragonfly species have aquatic nymphs. They are carnivores with a quick attack. Average 3/4 inch long.



Dragonfly adult

After molting to adults, they are agile fliers, plucking and eating mosquitos out of the air. While resting, their wings are out to their sides.



Damselfly nymph

Long-bodied, with three fin-like gills fanning from their end. Just over 1 inch long.



Damselfly adult

Adults are much smaller than their dragonfly cousins. When resting, their wings are together and tucked along their back.



Mayfly nymph

Nymph stage lasts from two months up to two years. Three long tails off the back.



Mayfly

Adult mayflies only live a few days and their "spinner" stage is seen in swarming mating rituals along bodies of water.



Crane fly larvae

Large, caterpillar-sized larvae. They feed along stream bottoms and are popular fish food.



Crane fly

Also mistakenly called mosquito hawks. Their large body resembles a mosquito, but these insects are harmless and eat nectar.



Black fly larvae

The can be found in large groups, with their bulbous ends attached to rocks on the stream bottom. 1/2 inch long.



Black fly

Well known to northern fly fishers, these tiny flies swarm and attack faces and ears. Bites are itchy.