








# 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

|   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
|    | <p><b>Dragonfly nymph</b></p> <p>All of Michigan's dragonfly species have aquatic nymphs. They are carnivores with a quick attack. Average 3/4 inch long.</p> |    | <p><b>Dragonfly adult</b></p> <p>As adults, they are agile fliers, plucking and eating mosquitos out of the air. Their wings are out to their sides when at rest.</p> |
|    | <p><b>Damselfly nymph</b></p> <p>Long-bodied, with three fin-like gills fanning from their end. Just over 1 inch long.</p>                                    |    | <p><b>Damselfly adult</b></p> <p>Much smaller than their dragonfly cousins. When resting, their wings are tucked along their back.</p>                                |
|  | <p><b>Mayfly nymph</b></p> <p>Nymph stage lasts from two months up to two years. Three long tails off the back.</p>   |  | <p><b>Mayfly</b></p> <p>They only live for a few days and their "spinner" stage is seen in swarming mating rituals by water.</p>                                      |
|  | <p><b>Crane fly larvae</b></p> <p>Large, caterpillar-sized larvae. They feed along stream bottoms and are popular fish food.</p>                              |  | <p><b>Crane fly</b></p> <p>Also mistakenly called mosquito hawks. Their large body resembles a mosquito, but these insects are harmless and eat nectar.</p>           |
|  | <p><b>Black fly larvae</b></p> <p>The can be found in large groups, with their bulbous ends attached to rocks on the stream bottom. 1/2 inch long.</p>        |  | <p><b>Black fly</b></p> <p>Well-known to northern fly fishers, these tiny flies swarm and attack faces and ears. Bites are itchy.</p>                                 |