

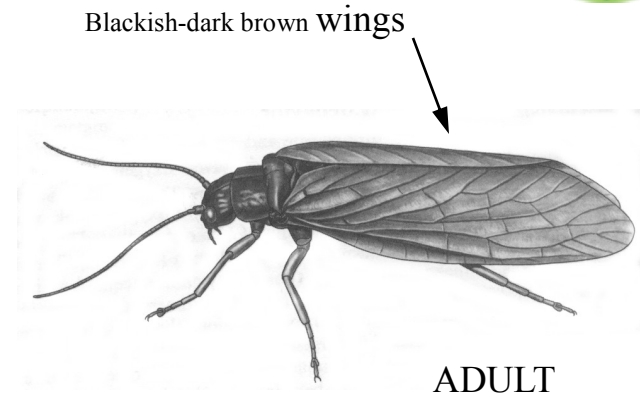
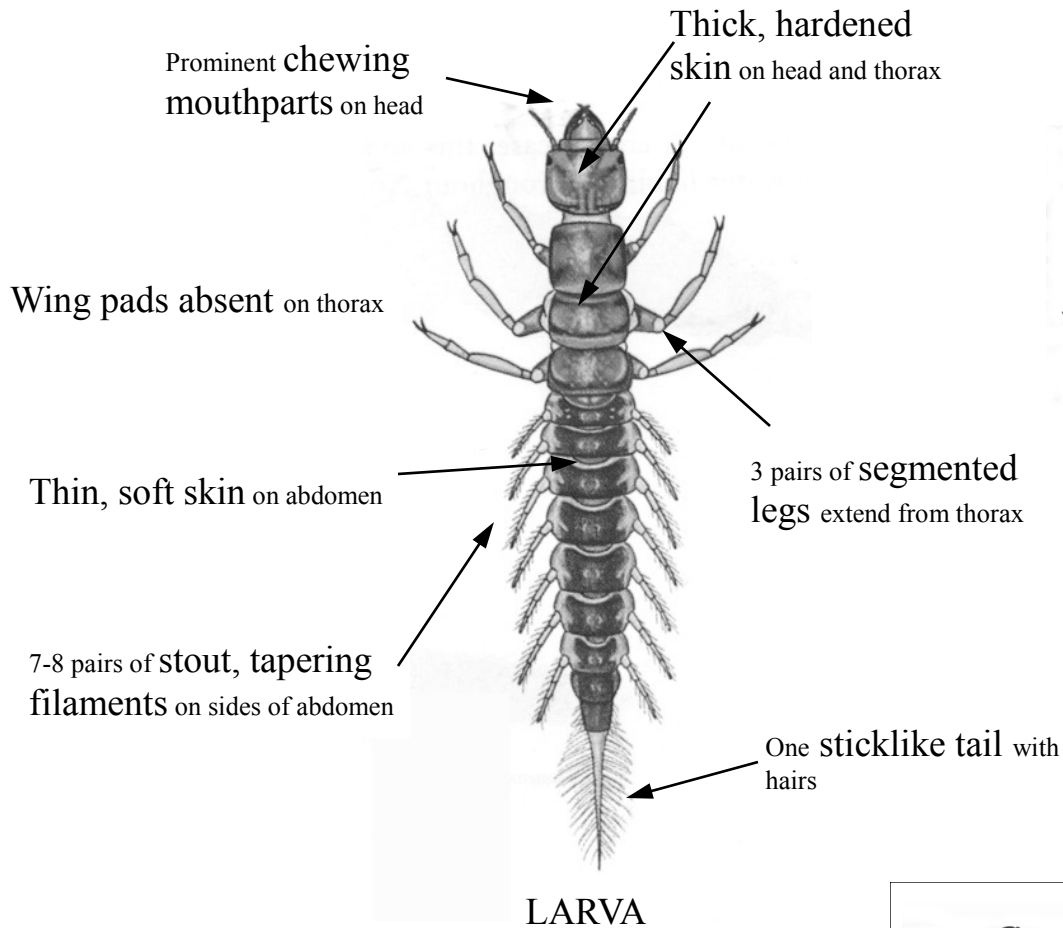
Alderfly Larvae

Order: Megaloptera Family: Sialidae

Number of species in North America: 24



Size: 10-25mm (larvae) / < 20mm (adult)



Adult alderflies are awkward fliers, but good runners.

Credits: McCafferty, W. Patrick. Aquatic Entomology, 1981.

Diet: Actively roam for small prey; search in mud and on bottom.
Food for: Game fish, predaceous water insects.
Habitat: Standing water or slow parts of moving water. Found on soft bottom.
Movement: Burrowers; dig in upper 10cm of substrate.
Breathing: Open breathing system– diffusion across soft, fleshy tissues.
Water Quality Indicator: Group II– can exist under a wide range of water quality conditions; a large number indicates MODERATE water quality.

Life Cycle Corner

Complete metamorphosis



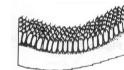
After crawling out of cell, adults live only a few days (females: 3 days/ males: 8-10).

Dig cell in soil using jaws and legs to pupate.



Swim to shore, crawl out of water.

Masses of dark-brown eggs are deposited onto the underside of overhanging leaves and twigs at nighttime.



Newly hatched larvae have a gas-bubble in their butts which enables larvae in this stage to float.

