**Black Fly Larvae**

**Also known as:** Buffalo gnat

**Order:** Diptera  **Family:** Simulidae

**Number of species in North America:** 150

**Size:** 3-12 mm (larvae) / 4 mm (adult)

**Diet:** Filter feeders; feed on algae, organic debris and detritus.

**Food for:** Game fish, predaceous aquatic insects and crayfish.

**Habitat:** Bottom dweller in ponds, lakes, and streams.

**Movement:** Attached by its rear to rocks or on woody debris. Can move downstream on a long silken tread.

**Breathing:** Open breathing system; breaths mainly through skin.

**Water Quality Indicator:** Group III—can tolerate polluted waters.

**Antennae**

**Fan-like mouth brushes** used for eating

**Proleg** under the head

**Key characteristic:** swollen end (like a bowling pin)

**Usually live in colonies**

**Usually stands upright in one place, attaching itself to hard surfaces.**

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**Life Cycle Corner**

**Complete metamorphosis**

In 2-6 weeks, the larvae will pupate (change into an adult)

**Spiracular gill**

Adult emerges from the pupae case, swim to shore and fly away.

**Groups of eggs are laid underwater each year on logs, rocks, and plants of shallow, swift waters.**

**ADULT**

**LARVA**

**Posterior attachment disc**

**Disc at its rear end with many small hooks to anchor it to rocks**

**Credits:**
