

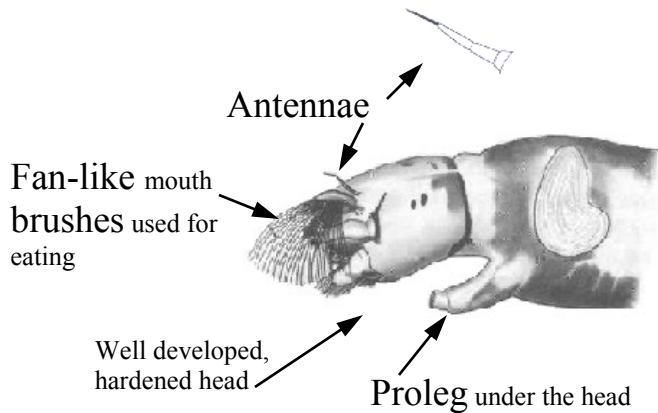
Black Fly Larvae

Also known as: Buffalo gnat

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

Order: Diptera Family: Simuliidae

Number of species in North America: 150



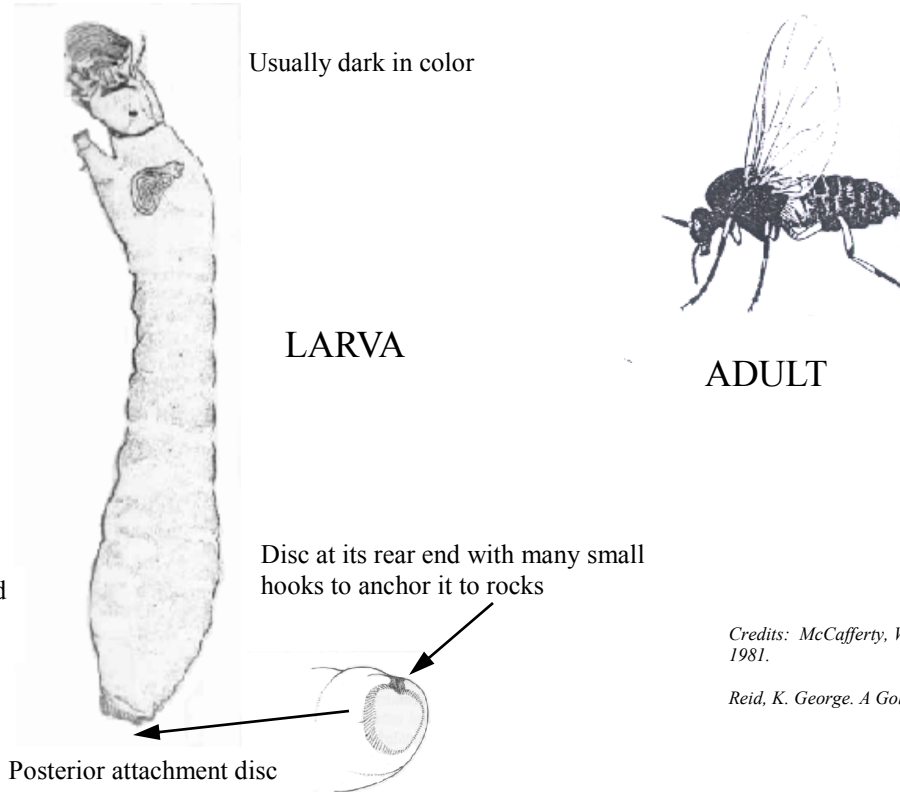
Key characteristic: swollen end (like a bowling pin)

Usually live in colonies



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

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.



Credits: McCafferty, W. Patrick. *Aquatic Entomology*, 1981.
 Reid, K. George. *A Golden Guide to Pond Life*, 1995.

Life Cycle Corner

