

Net-spinning Caddisfly Larvae

Order: Trichoptera Family: Hydropsychidae

Number of species in North America: 149

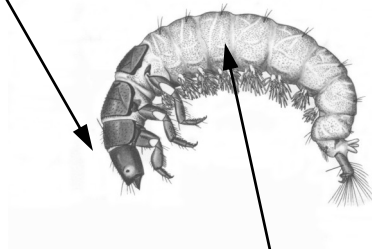


Size: 10-16mm

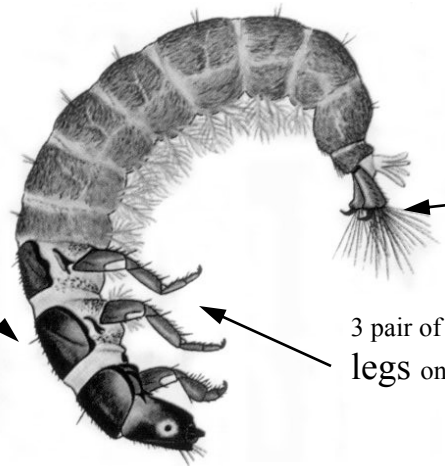


No wing pads on thorax

Thick, hardened skin on head



Abdomen is made of thin, soft skin



1 pair of prolegs with 1 claw on each

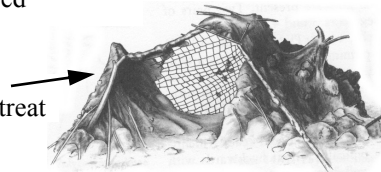
3 pair of segmented legs on thorax

COMMON NETSPINNER

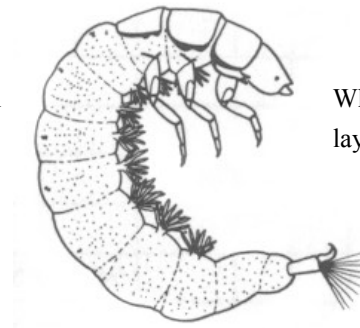
Antennae very short, barely visible

Build mesh net for filter feeding—quickly abandon when disturbed

Use Silk to secure retreat



Usually captured clinging to rocks and vegetation



When removed from water, larvae lay on side in C-shape

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

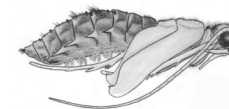
Life Cycle Corner

Complete metamorphosis

Eggs are deposited near the shore.



5 larval instars—the pupal stage takes place in a sealed cocoon (fixed to an object).



Three weeks later, the caddisfly emerges as an adult.

Diet: Collector-feeders; construct mesh net to remove particles from water.
Food for: Game fish, predaceous water insects.
Habitat: Flowing waters, usually between rocks or submerged debris.
Movement: Clingers; live in tubular retreats attached to solid objects in current.
Breathing: Closed breathing system; diffusion over soft body tissue.
Water Quality Indicator: Group II— can exist under a wide range of water quality conditions; a large number indicates MODERATE water quality.