Net-spinning Caddisfly Larvae

Order: Trichoptera  Family: Hydropsychidae

Number of species in North America: 149

Size: 10-16mm

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.

Common characteristics:
- Abdomen is made of thin, soft skin
- Antennae very short, barely visible
- No wing pads on thorax
- Thick, hardened skin on head
- 3 pair of segmented legs on thorax
- 1 pair of prolegs with 1 claw on each
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Life Cycle Corner

Complete metamorphosis

Eggs are deposited near the shore.

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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.