

Crane Fly Larvae

Order: Diptera Family: Tipulidae

Number of species in North America: 300

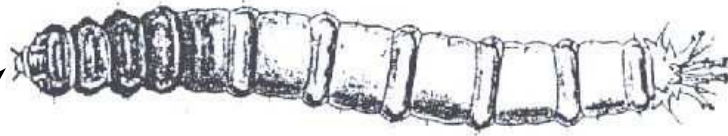


Size: 10-100 mm (larvae) / 25-38 mm (adult)

LARVA

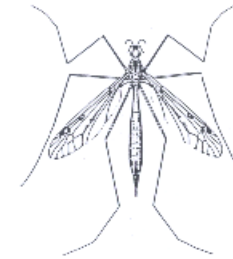
Retracted

head (head can be pulled inside)



Fleshy, plump, segmented, worm-like body

Rear end disc section. Has breathing structure here.



ADULT

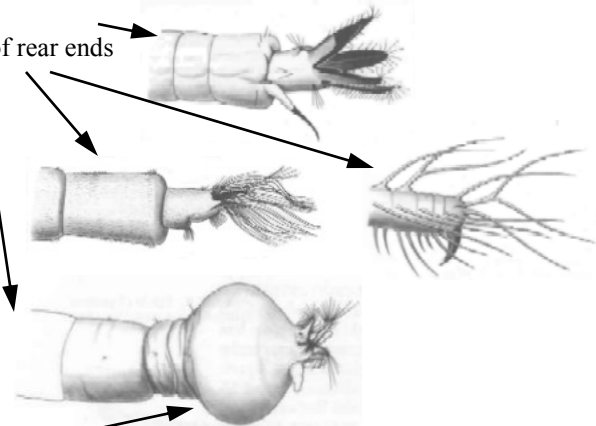


spiracular disc

Rear end disc section

spiracular lobe
spiracle

Variety of rear ends

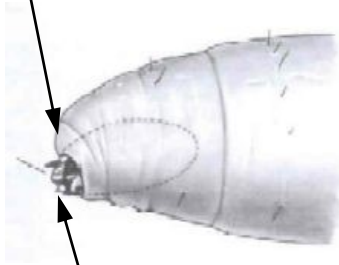


No legs and no wings

Usually brown, white, or green in color.

3 to 6 finger-like extensions surrounding an open disc at rear end

Sometimes a rear swollen section



retracted head

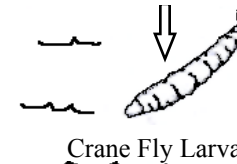
Credits: McCafferty, W. Patrick. Aquatic Entomology, 1981.

Diet: Small microorganisms (plants and animals), periphyton, even wood. Most eat plants.
Food for: Trout, bass (game fishes), beetles, predaceous water insects.
Habitat: Bottom dweller in streams, some in ponds, marshes, and lakes. Sometimes in algal growths or woody debris.
Movement: Cling to bottom, some swim.
Breathing: Through skin in well oxygenated water and from air through rear end in poorly oxygenated water.
Water Quality Indicator: Group II—Can tolerate some water pollution. Does better in well oxygenated water.

Life Cycle Corner

Elongated, shiny, black eggs are deposited in soil or algae mats near shore and hatch in less than one month.

Complete metamorphosis



Crane Fly Larva



Pupa leaves water, goes to edge of pond and develops in muddy bank.



Adult pushes out of soil.