

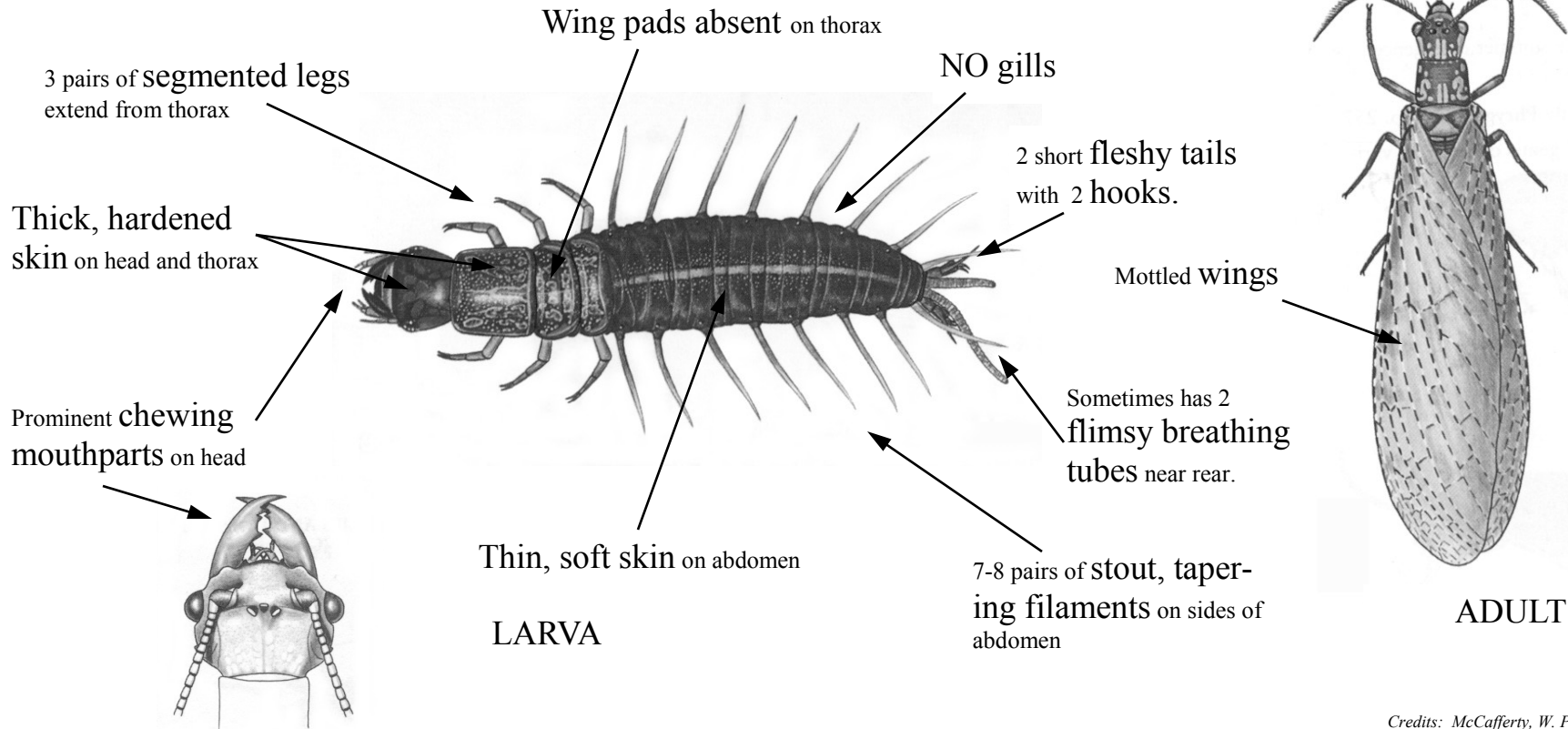
Fishfly Larvae

Order: Megaloptera Family: Corydalidae

Number of species in North America: 18



Size: 25-90mm (larvae) / > 35mm (adult)



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

SIMILAR TO: dobsonfly (hellgrammite)

- Fishflies do not have abdominal gill tufts, while dobsonflies do.

Diet: Microscopic algae, small bits of organic matter, pieces of plants; a few eat other insects.

Food for: Game fish, predaceous water insects.

Habitat: Bottom dwellers; flowing waters (streams and rivers), ponds and shallow lakes.

Movement: Swim, cling to rocks, some burrow.

Breathing: Through gills on abdomen.

Water Quality Indicator: Group II – indicate MODERATE water quality.

Life Cycle Corner

After crawling out of cell, adults live only a few days (females: 3 days/males: 8-10).

Complete metamorphosis

← Dig cell in soil using jaws and legs.



← Swim to shore, crawl out of water.

Eggs are deposited out of the water onto overhanging objects. This is performed at night.



⇒ Newly hatched larvae have a gas-bubble in their butts which enables larvae in this stage to float.

