

Crawlers not swimmers. The hooks are used to grip rocks. Many spin webs or tunnels of silk. Some can stand poor quality water so the group only scores 5 as a whole. Most prefer running water.

### Blackfly larva (5)

small maggot-like body swollen at the base, head with combs of hairs if seen under a lens, up to 15mm



A midge larva found in running water of moderate quality attached vertically in groups to stones, filtering out particles.

### Flatworm (5)

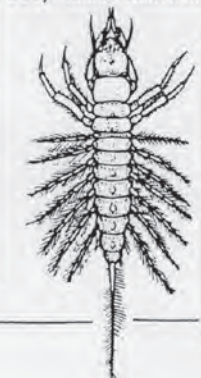
flat, no divisions of body, sometimes with apparent tentacles and eye spots, up to 25mm

flatworms glide over the surface of rocks, stones and vegetation. They are usually found in productive water where snails and crustaceans (shrimps, etc.) are common.

### ★Swimming mayfly nymph (4)

like flattened mayfly but with cylindrical body

Most mayflies are good water quality indicators but one common one (*Baetis*) is not. So, unless you know your mayflies, swimming mayflies don't score too highly. They swim with up and down movements of the body, unlike damselflies.



### Alderfly larva (4)

6 legs, large head and jaws, long gills along body, single tapering tail, up to 40mm, fast swimmer.

### Leech (3)

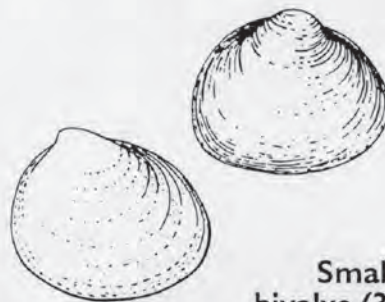
worm-like, many divisions of the body (segments), suckers at each end — at least one of them obvious, up to 70mm

Leeches move either by swimming, or more usually by looping movements using alternate suckers. They are not bloodsuckers of people.

### Snail (3)

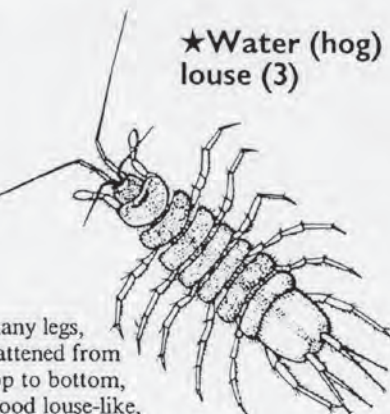
coiled or spiral shell, up to 50mm

Difficult to mistake for anything else. They are not very useful as indicators and may be absent from water of high acidity because of lack of calcium for shell-building.



### Small bivalve (3)

shell made up of two halves, less than 4cm  
Often found in large numbers in water of poor quality.



### ★Water (hog) louse (3)

many legs, flattened from top to bottom, wood louse-like, up to 12mm

Although a crustacean like the freshwater shrimp, the water louse can stand some acidity. It crawls rather than swims and can stand a fair amount of pollution.

### Non-red midge larva (2)

worm-like but obvious head, pair of 'false-legs' at both ends, up to 20mm

Many live in thin tubes made of mud particles and prefer muddy or silty conditions.



### ★Sludge worm (1)

no legs, no obvious head

Like a small earthworm but reddish-brown; often occurring in knots with many others. As the name suggests they can stand just about anything! (Also known as Tubifex).

### ★Bloodworm (1)

like non-red midge larva, bright red.

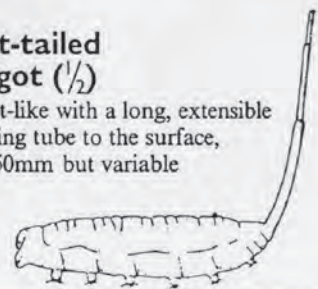
Not a worm but a midge larva; contains red blood pigment (like ours) which allows it to store oxygen and so live in very polluted conditions. Moves with a 'figure of eight' looping motion.



### ★Rat-tailed maggot (1/2)

maggot-like with a long, extensible breathing tube to the surface, up to 50mm but variable

This is a hover-fly larva. It requires fairly still, shallow water so that its snorkel can reach the air. If it is very polluted you may find many of these and nothing else.



SWIMMING MAYFLY NYMPH  
Courtesy BURKE PUBLISHING CO. LTD.  
from 'THE YOUNG SPECIALIST LOOKS AT POND LIFE' by W. ENGELHARDT.

All other illustrations  
Courtesy FIELD STUDIES COUNCIL from  
'A KEY TO THE MAJOR GROUPS OF FRESHWATER INVERTEBRATES' by P. S. CROFT.