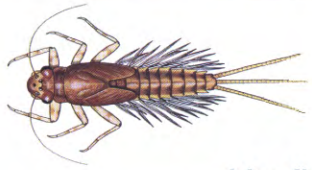
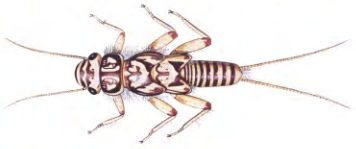
Nashua River Watershed Aquatic Invertebrates

Good Quality Water

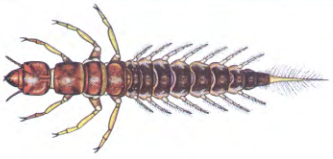


Mayfly nymph
three "tails" and waving gills on abdomen

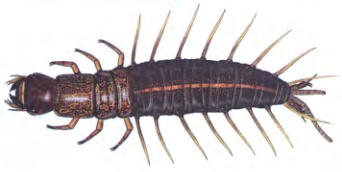


Stonefly nymph
two "tails"

Caddisfly larva
makes a home of sticks or stones



Alderfly larva
pointy tip on abdomen



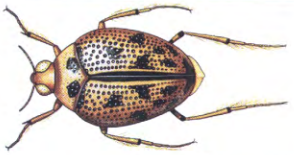
Fishfly larva
two long breathing tubes on tip of abdomen

Dobsonfly larva
tufted gills on abdomen

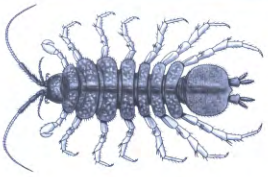
Gilled snail
has a cover on shell opening

Fair Quality Water

Scud
very small, swims on its side



Crawling water beetle
oval body with spots, swims underwater

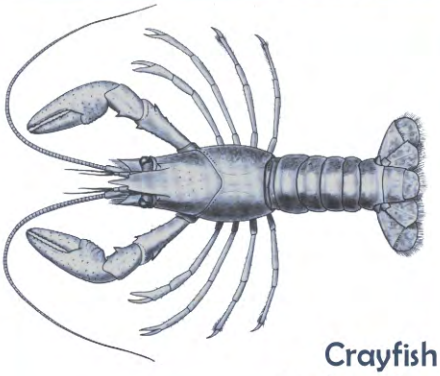


Aquatic sowbug
seven pairs of legs, long antennae

Whirligig beetle
swims in fast circles on water surface

Damselfly nymph
big head, slender body

Dragonfly nymph
big head, broad body



Crayfish
two large claws

Any Quality Water

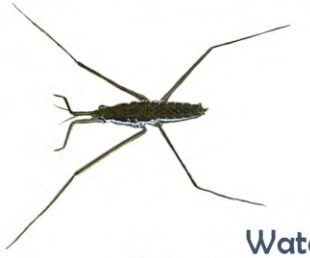
Midge larva
slender, worm-like body

Leech
flat body with sucking mouth

Water boatman
legs look like oars, swims on its belly

Backswimmer
legs look like oars, swims on its back

Pond snail
no cover on shell opening



Water strider
skids around on water surface

Water scorpion
long, stick-like body

Giant water bug
large and oval with grabbing front legs