

NEW MEXICO WATERSHED WATCH ORDER KEY

Stream Insects & Crustaceans

GROUP ONE TAXA – Pollution sensitive Organisms; found in good quality water.

1 Stonefly: Order Plecoptera. 1/2" – 1 1/2", 6 legs with hooked tips, antennae, 2 hair-like tails. Smooth (no gills) on lower half of body. (See arrow.)

2 Caddisfly: Order Trichoptera. Up to 1", 6 hooked legs on upper third of body, 2 hooks at back end. May be in a stick, rock or leaf case with its head sticking out. May have fluffy gill tufts on underside.

3 Mayfly: Order Ephemeroptera. 1/4" – 1", brown, moving, plate-like or feathery gills on sides of lower body (see arrow), 6 large hooked legs, antennae, 2 or 3 long, hair-like tails. Tails may be webbed together.

4 Dobsonfly (Hellgrammite): Order Megaloptera. 3/4" – 4", dark-colored, 6 legs, large pinching jaws, eight pairs feelers on lower half of body with paired cotton-like gill tufts along underside, short antennae, 2 tails and 2 pairs of hooks at back end.

5 Riffle Beetle: Order Coleoptera. 1/4", oval body covered with tiny hairs, 6 legs, antennae. Walks slowly underwater. Does not swim on surface.

6 Water Penny: Order Coleoptera. 1/4", flat saucer-shaped body with a raised bump on one side and 6 tiny legs and fluffy gills on the other side. Immature beetle.

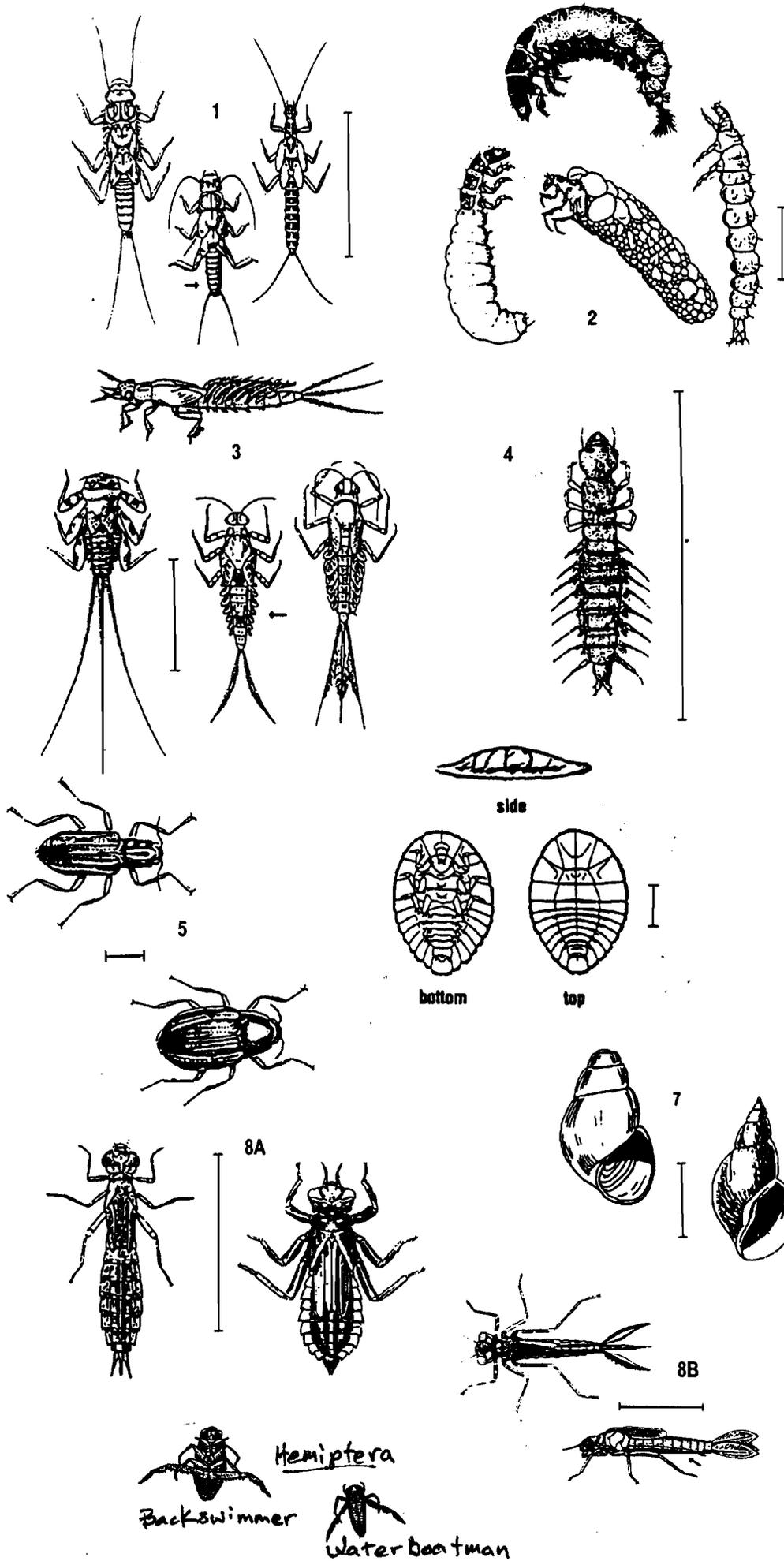
7 Gilled Snail: Class Gastropoda. Shell opening covered by thin plate called operculum. When opening is facing you, shell usually opens on right.

GROUP TWO TAXA – Somewhat pollution tolerant organisms; can be in good or fair quality water.

8A Dragon Fly: Order Odonata, Suborder Anisoptera. 1/2" – 2", large eyes, 6 hooked legs. Wide oval to round abdomen.

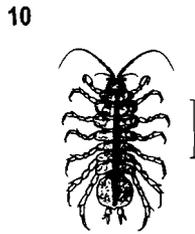
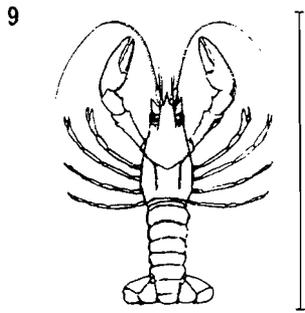
8B Damselfly: Order Odonata, Suborder Zygoptera. 1/2" – 1", large eyes, 6 thin hooked legs. 3 broad oar-shaped tails, positioned like a tripod. Smooth (no gills) on sides of lower half of body. (See arrow.)

Order Hemiptera: Leathery wings. Suborder Heteroptera



Hemiptera
Backswimmer
Water boatman

GROUP TWO TAXA CONTINUED



9 Crayfish: Order Decapoda. Up to 6", 2 large claws, 8 legs, resembles small lobster.

10 Sowbug: Order Isopoda. 1/4" - 3/4", gray oblong body wider than it is high, more than 6 legs, long antennae.

11A Alderfly Larva: Order Megaloptera. 1" long. Looks like small hellgrammite but has 1 long, thin, branched tail at back end (no hooks). No gill tufts underneath.

11B Fishfly Larva: Order Megaloptera. Up to 1 1/2" long. Looks like small hellgrammite but often a lighter reddish-tan color, or with yellowish streaks. No gill tufts underneath.

12 Scud: Order Amphipoda. 1/4", white to gray, body higher than it is wide, swims sideways, more than 6 legs, resembles small shrimp.

13 Beetle larva: Order Coleoptera. 1/4" - 1", light-colored, 6 legs on upper half of body, feelers, antennae.

14 Watersnipe Fly Larva: Order Diptera. 1/4" - 1", pale to green, tapered body, many caterpillar-like legs, conical head, feathery "horns" at back end.

15 Crane Fly: Order Diptera. 1/3" - 2", milky, green or light brown, plump caterpillar-like segmented body. 4 finger-like lobes at back end.

16 Clam: Class Bivalvia

GROUP THREE TAXA -

Pollution tolerant organisms; can be in any quality of water.

17 Midge Fly Larva: Order Diptera. Up to 1/4", dark head, worm-like segmented body, 2 tiny legs on each side.

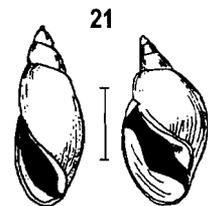
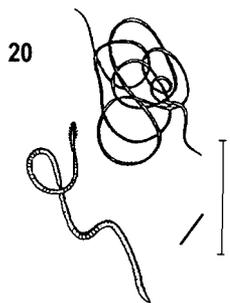
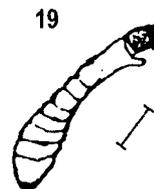
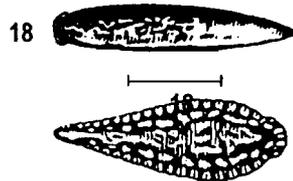
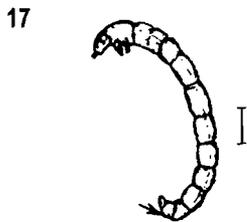
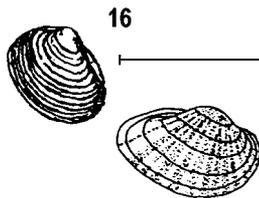
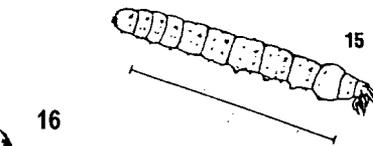
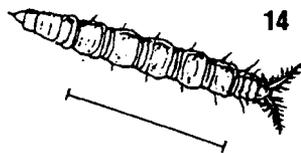
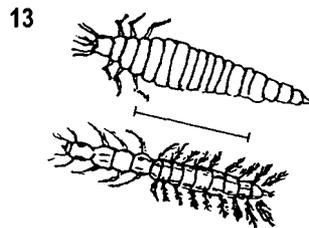
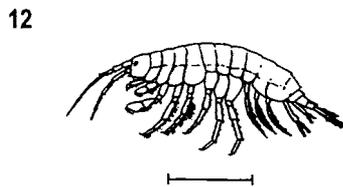
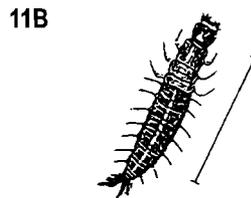
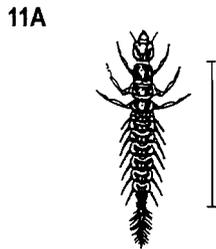
18 Leech: Order Hirudinea. 1/4" - 2", brown, slimy body, ends with suction pads.

19 Blackfly Larva: Order Diptera. Up to 1/4", one end of body wider. Black head, suction pad on other end.

20 Aquatic Worm: Order Worm. 1/4" - 2", can be very tiny; thin worm-like body.

21 Pouch Snail and Pond Snails: Class Gastropoda. No operculum. Breathe air. When opening is facing you, shell usually opens on left.

22 Other Snails: Class Gastropoda. No operculum. Breathe air. Snail shell coils in one plane.



Adapted for New Mexico Watershed Watch from *Save Our Streams*, Isaak Walton League, Gaithersburg, MD