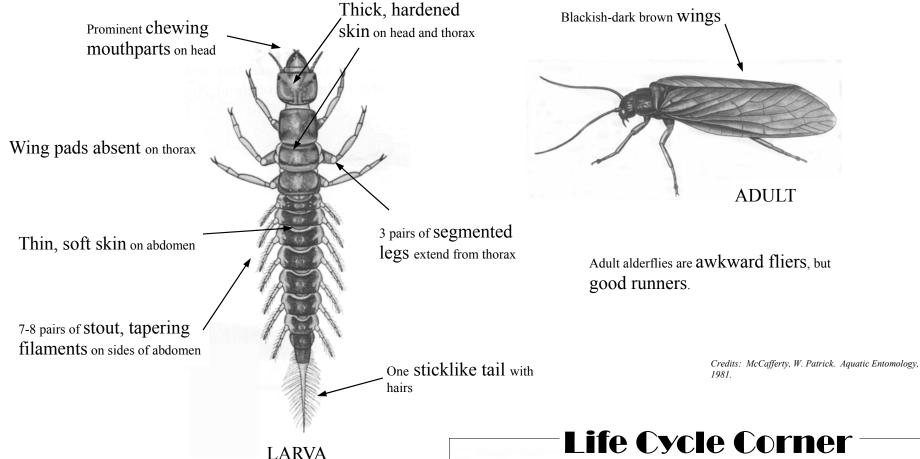
Alderfly Larvae

Order: Megaloptera Family: Sialidae

Number of species in North America: 24



Size: 10-25mm (larvae) / < 20mm (adult)



Diet: Actively roam for small prey; search in mud and on bottom.

Food for: Game fish, predaceous water insects.

Habitat: Standing water or slow parts of moving water. Found on soft bottom.

Movement: Burrowers; dig in upper 10cm of substrate.

Breathing: Open breathing system–diffusion across soft, fleshy tissues. Water Quality Indicator: Group II— can exist under a wide range of water. quality conditions; a large number indicates MODERATE water quality.

Complete metamorphosis

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

Dig cell in soil using jaws and legs to pupate.



Swim to shore, crawl out of water.

Masses of dark-brown eggs are deposited onto the underside of overhanging leaves and twigs at nighttime.

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

