

# Alderfly Larvae

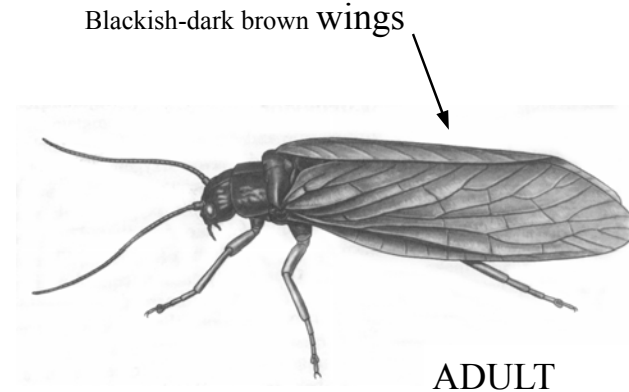
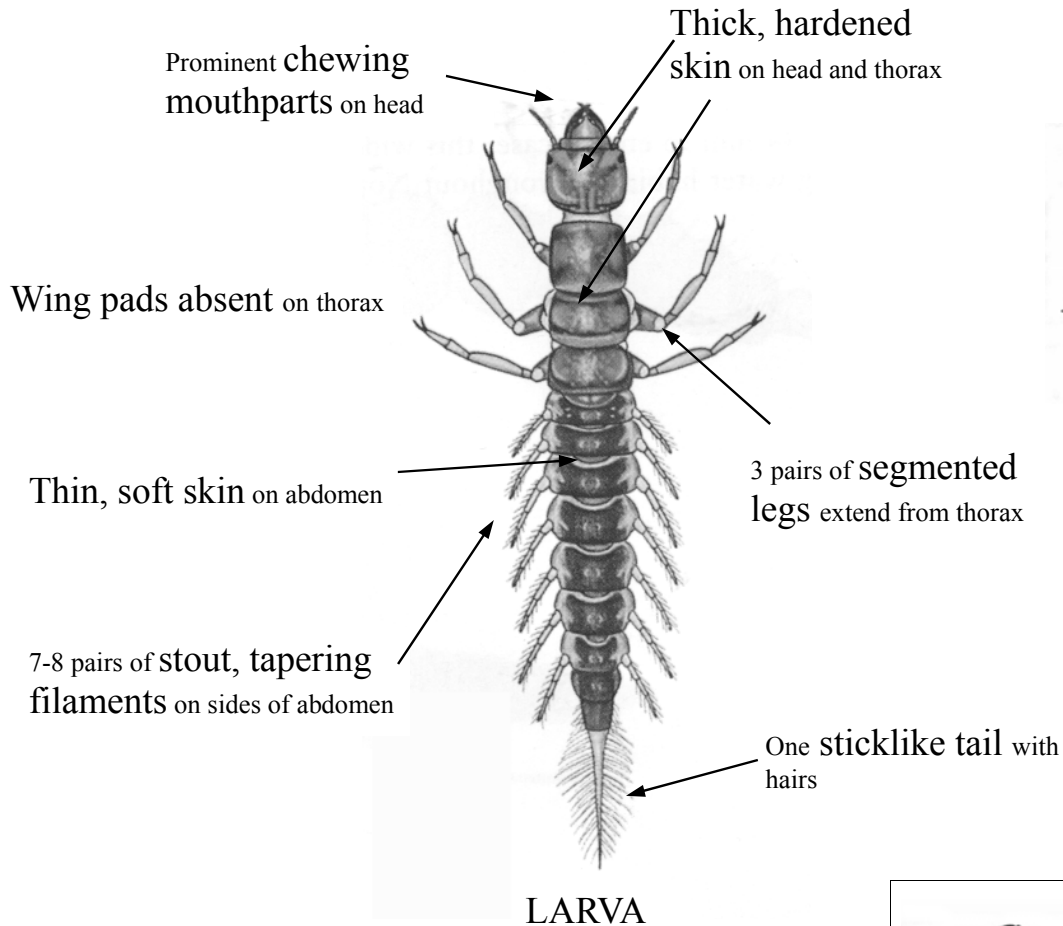
Order: *Megaloptera* Family: *Sialidae*

Number of species in North America: 24



CREEK CONNECTIONS,  
Allegheny College

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



Adult alderflies are **awkward fliers**, but **good runners**.

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

**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.

