

# Dragonfly Nymph

Order: Odonata Families: Aeshnidae– Darners  
 Gomphidae– Clubtails  
 Libellulidae– Common Skimmers

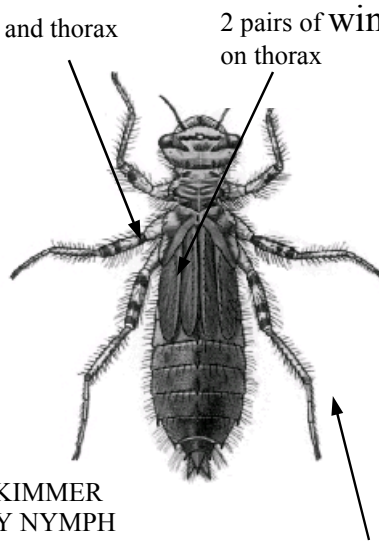


CREEK CONNECTIONS,  
 Allegheny College

Number of species in North America: 243

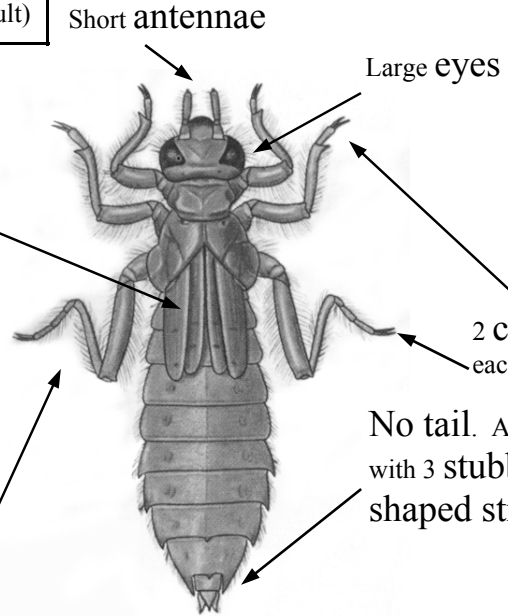
Size: Darners: 45mm (larvae) / 79mm (adult)  
 Clubtails: 30mm (larvae) / 50mm (adult)  
 Common Skimmers: 21mm (larvae) / 50mm (adult)

Thick, hardened skin on head and thorax



COMMON SKIMMER  
 DRAGONFLY NYMPH

2 pairs of wing pads on thorax



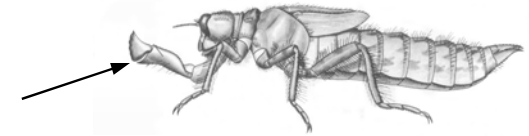
CLUBTAIL DRAGONFLY NYMPH

3 pairs of segmented legs extend from thorax

Large eyes

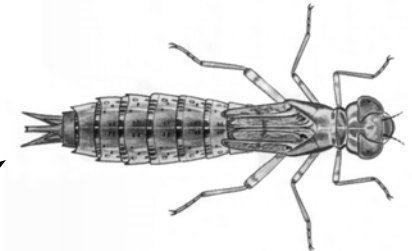
Short antennae

Scooplike lip (called labium) to capture food.  
 Large chewing mouthparts.

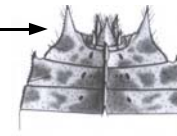


2 claws at the end of each leg

No tail. Abdomen terminates with 3 stubby wedge-shaped structures.



DARNER NYMPH AND ADULT



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

## SIMILAR TO: damselfly

- A dragonfly's head is narrower than thorax and abdomen, while a damselfly's head is wider.

**Diet:** Insects (and larvae), other dragonfly nymphs, worms, small crustaceans. Will go after movement and even stalk prey.  
**Food for:** Gamefish, frogs, birds, beetles, other dragonflies.  
**Habitat:** Ponds, marshes, lake edges, shallow streams, slow streams and rivers  
**Movement:** Climb and crawl on bottom. Some burrow. Can propel through water by sending water out their rear (rectal chamber).  
**Breathing:** Through gill folds on rear area of body, and thin-walled body regions.  
**Water Quality Indicator:** Group II– can exist under a wide range of water quality conditions; a large number indicates MODERATE water quality.

## Life Cycle Corner

