

A Wet World

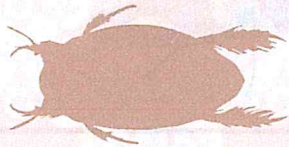
Aquatic insects are different from land insects in some ways. They are adapted to underwater life during the larval or pupal stage. Some also live on or under the water during the adult stage. These critters, like the mayfly nymph, have gills. They may take in oxygen through the skin like the

chironomid, a type of fly larva. Some aquatic insects, like the mosquito larva, draw air through a tube. Others, like the adult backswimmer, carry a gas bubble.

Aquatic insects also have some unique feeding adaptations. Check out some of the ways these insects get their dinner.

PREDATORS

Pursue or wait for prey



Predaceous diving beetle



SHREDDERS

Eat pieces of leaves and dead plant parts



Giant stonefly nymph



GRAZERS

Scrape algae, food and bacteria off rocks



Water penny

COLLECTORS

Gather or filter food from the water



Net-spinning caddisfly larva

PLAY

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A Bug's Life

All insects go through a life cycle as they grow. Their bodies change through each stage. We call these changes metamorphosis (met-a-'morph-o-sis). Some insects go through three changes, called incomplete metamorphosis. They have an egg, nymph and adult stage. Other insects go through four changes, called complete metamorphosis. They have an egg, larva, pupa and adult stage. Sometimes we use the term "hatch" to describe a nymph or larva that is changing into an adult. The insect appears to be "hatching" right out of the water to become an adult.

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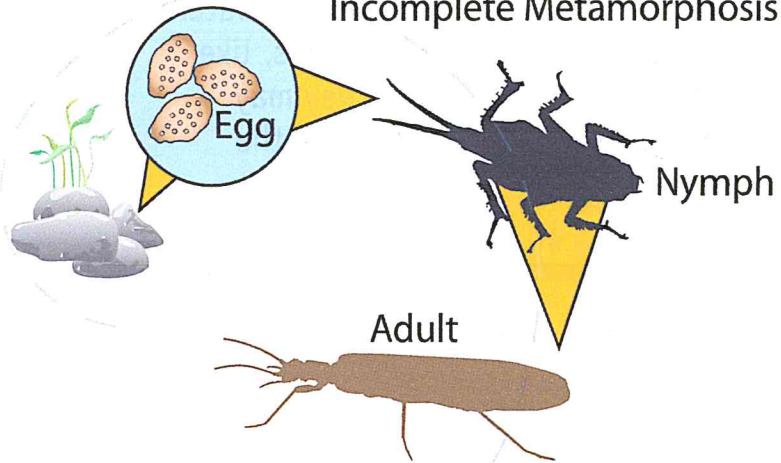
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...metamorphosis.

(met-a-'morph-o-sis)

Metamorphosis - Stonefly

Incomplete Metamorphosis



Metamorphosis - Caddisfly

Complete Metamorphosis

