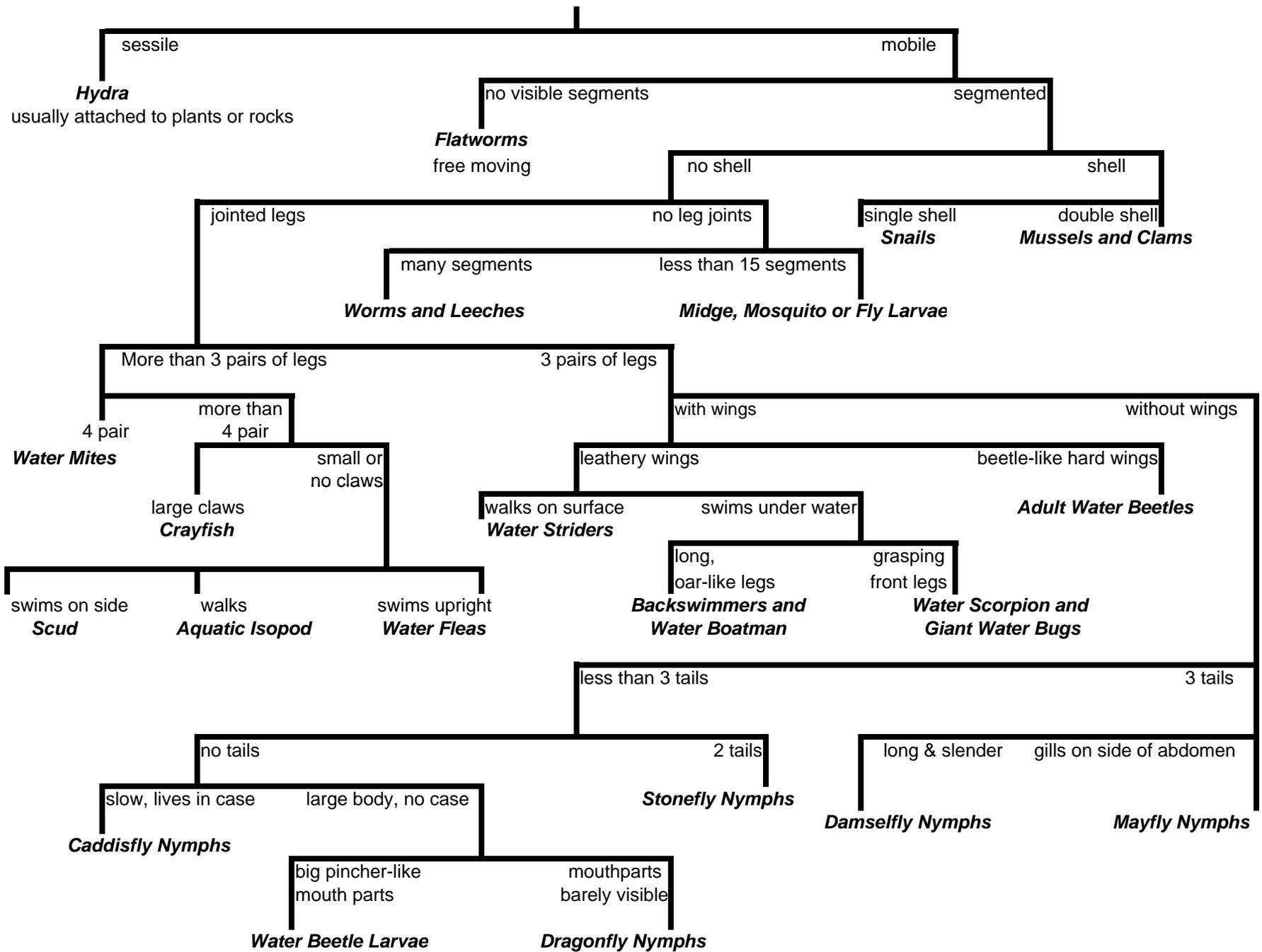


Key to Common Macroinvertebrates



Macroinvertebrate Identification Page



Hydrae



Flatworms



Snails



Clams



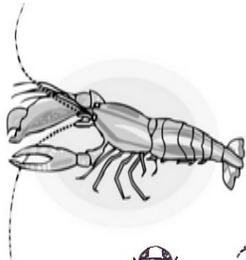
Worms and Leeches



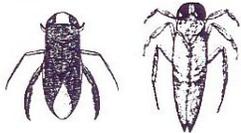
Midge, Mosquito and Fly Larvae



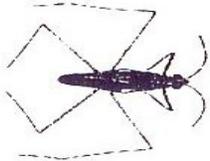
Water Mites



Crayfish



Water Boatmen and Backswimmers



Water Striders



Water Beetles



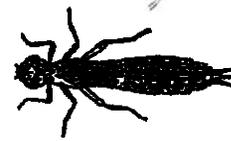
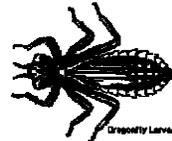
Scuds



Aquatic Isopod



Water Fleas



Dragonfly Nymphs



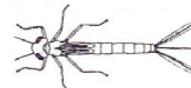
Caddisfly Nymphs



Water Beetle Larvae



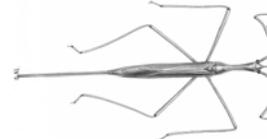
Stonefly Nymphs



Damselfly Nymphs



Mayfly Nymphs



Water Scorpion



Giant Water Bug

Glossary

Abdomen The back section of an insect. The abdomen contains the digestive system, has tails attached, and gills or spiracles.



Benthic Describing organisms that live on or near the bottom of a body of water.

Exoskeleton An external covering that protects and shapes the animal's body. Flexibility is provided by joints or segments. This is different from a shell, like clams or snails have.

Invertebrate An animal without a backbone. Vertebrates are animals with backbones. Invertebrates vastly outnumber vertebrates, which include only fish, reptiles, amphibians, birds and mammals.

Larva The immature stage of an insect that undergoes complete metamorphosis, often legless, always wingless.

Metamorphosis The process of major changes in form that many animals undergo. Frogs metamorphose from egg to tadpole to frog, dragonflies change from egg to nymph to dragonfly. Incomplete metamorphosis undergoes three forms (like the frog or dragonfly), complete metamorphosis undergoes four stages (like a butterfly or beetle, this includes a pupa stage).

Mobile Moving, or capable of moving.

Nymph The immature stage of an insect that undergoes incomplete metamorphosis, always wingless.

Pupa The stage in an insect's lifecycle that comes after larva- the insect is generally encased and helpless, undergoing a transformation into the adult form.

Segmented The animal's body is divided into visible sections, either body parts (insects) or rings and sections (earthworm).

Sessile Attached to the bottom or object. This animal does not move around in its environment.

Shell A single or double hard casing protecting all of the soft body parts and tissues.

Spiracles Openings on the sides of some insects abdomens that allow the exchange of gasses for breathing.



Thorax The middle section of an insect- the thorax has the wings and legs attached (if present).

