

Case Building Caddisfly

Order: *Hydropsychidae* Family: *Limnephilidae*
 Number of species in North America: more than 300



CREEK CONNECTIONS,
 Allegheny College

Size: body: 20-30 mm/ case 25-50 mm



Limnephilus larval case



Farula larval case



Pycnopsyche larval case



Apatania larval case



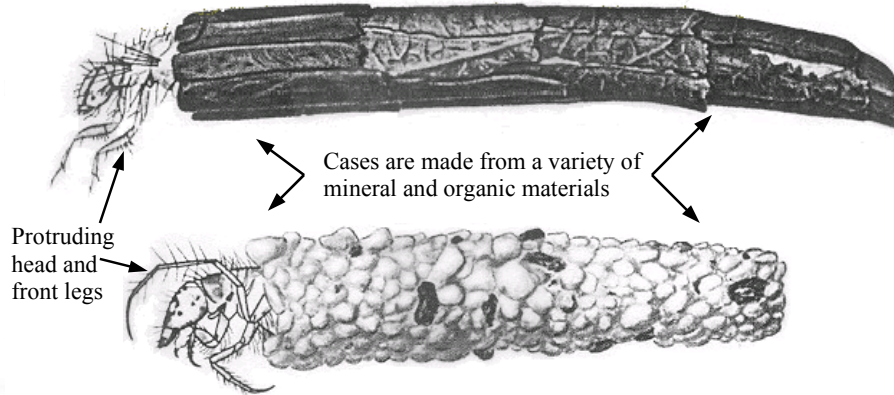
Manophylax larval case



Limnephilus larval case

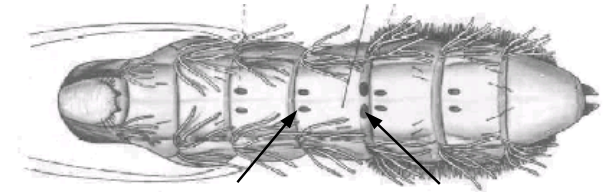


Neophylax larval case



Protruding head and front legs

Cases are made from a variety of mineral and organic materials



Anterior hook plate

Posterior hook plate

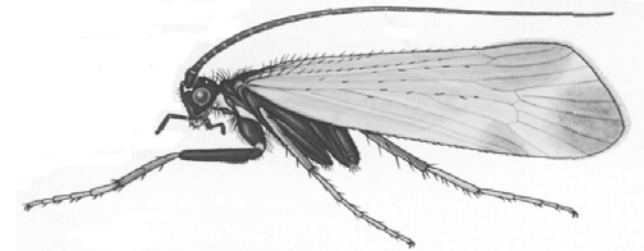
Thick, hardened skin on head and thorax

bristles

dorsal hump

lateral hump

LARVA



ADULT

Credits: McCafferty, W. Patrick. *Aquatic Entomology*, 1981.
 and
 Voshell, J. Reese Jr. *A Guide to Freshwater Invertebrates of North America*, 2002.

Life Cycle Corner

Complete metamorphosis

Adults emerge in late spring or early fall and live for approximately 30 days.

The pupa stage lasts 2-3 weeks. Pupae are aquatic and obtain oxygen in the same way as larvae.

Larvae create a cocoon in the water for the pupa.

Eggs are deposited in gelatin masses in the stream. Masses vary from a few eggs each to several hundred eggs in each mass. Egg masses are sometimes green, yellow or orange.

The larval stage can last from 2-3 months to 2 years. Larva shed their exoskeleton an average of 5 times.

Diet: Shredder-detritivores, shredder-herbivores, collector-gatherers, scraper.
Food for: Game fish, predaceous water insects.
Habitat: Lentic and lotic habitats, streams, rivers, springs, marshes and ponds.
Movement: clingers, crawlers and climbers.
Water Quality Indicator: Groups I and II- can exist under a limited or wide range of water quality conditions; a large number indicates GOOD water quality.