

# Aquatic Animal Adaptations Chart

Real Aquatic Insect	Adaptation
Water boatman, water bugs	Swims through water
Water strider, whirligig beetle	Swims on water surface
Damselfly nymphs, darners	Clings to weeds and vegetation
Caddisfly larvae, water penny beetle larvae, some mayfly nymphs	Eats periphyton (algae on rocks)
Caddisfly larvae, mayfly nymphs	Eats detritus (decomposing organic matter)
Dragonfly nymphs, Damselfly nymphs, water striders, water bugs, larger stoneflies, beetles (larvae and adult), Dobson flies, fishflies, alderflies	Eats other insects
Mosquito larvae	Eats zooplankton
Burrowing mayflies	Hides in sediments
Water pennies, flathead mayflies, stoneflies	Fits between rocks and crevices
Net-spinning caddisfly larvae, blackfly larvae, some mayfly nymphs	Filters out fine particulate organic matter
Predacious diving beetle	Dives from surface of water to bottom
Common stoneflies	Clings to top rocks on stream bottom
Burrowing mayflies	Burrow into mud
Cranefly larvae, case-building caddisfly larvae, small stonefly nymphs, scuds, aquatic sowbugs	Eats coarse particulate organic matter
Mosquito larvae	Floats on surface