

Case-Building Caddisfly Fact Sheet

Order: *Hydropsychidae*

Family: *Limnephilidae*

Number of species in North America: > 300

Size: body 20–30 mm, case 25–50 mm

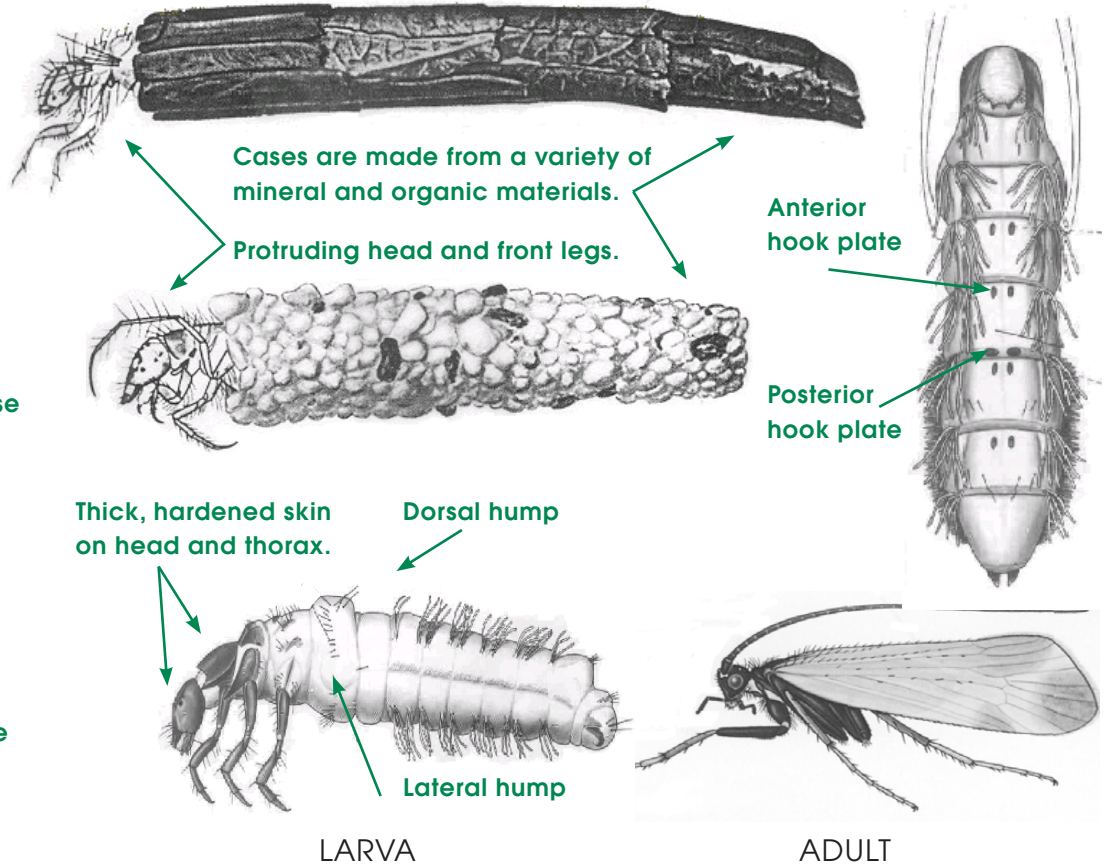
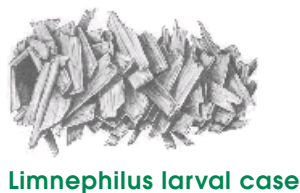
Diet: Shredder-detritivores, shredder-herbivores, collector-gatherers, scraper.

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.



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.

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