

Ephemeroptera “Mayflies”

FAMILY
Ameletidae
 “Comb-mouthed Minnow
 Mayflies”



Ameletus

FAMILY
Baetidae
 “Small Minnow Mayflies”



Acentrella Baetis Heterocloeon

FAMILY
Baetiscidae
 “Armored Mayflies”



Baetisca

FAMILY
Caenidae
 “Small Square-gilled
 Mayflies”



Caenis

FAMILY
Ephemerellidae
 “Spiny Crawler Mayflies”



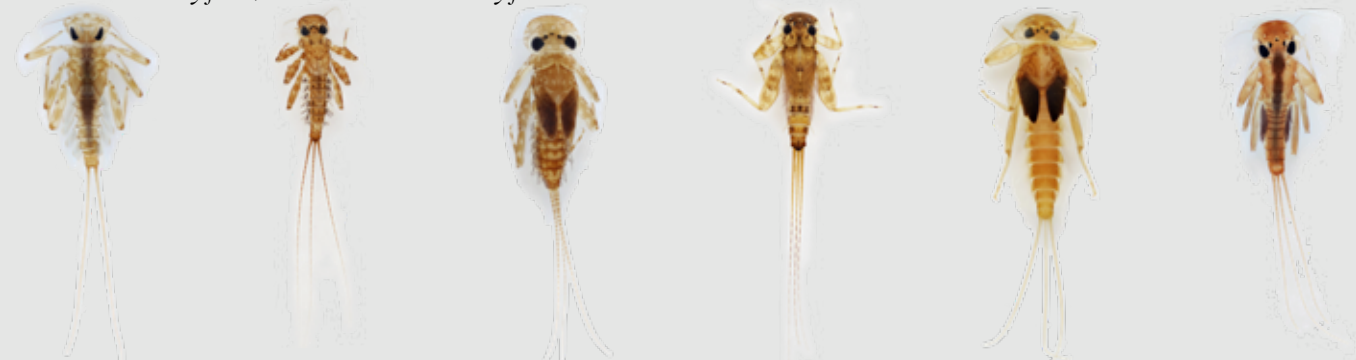
Attenella Drunella Ephemerella Eurylophella Serratella

FAMILY
Ephemeridae
 “Common Burrowing Mayflies”



Ephemera Hexagenia

FAMILY
Heptageniidae
 “Flat-headed Mayflies, Cookie-headed Mayflies”



Epeorus Heptagenia Leucrocota Maccaffertium Rhithrogena Stenacron

FAMILY
Isonychiidae
 “Brush-legged Mayflies”



Isonychia

FAMILY
Leptohyphidae
 “Little Stout Crawler Mayflies”



Tricorythodes

FAMILY
Leptophlebiidae
 “Prong-gilled Mayflies”



Habrophlebia Leptophlebia Paraleptophlebia

FAMILY
Metretopodidae
 “Cleft-footed Minnow Mayflies”



Siphloplecton

FAMILY
Polymitarcyidae
 “Pale Burrower Mayflies”



Ephoron

FAMILY
Potamanthidae
 “Hackle-gills”



Anthopotamus

FAMILY
Siphonuridae
 “Bush-tailed Caddisflies”



Siphonurus

Ephemeroptera “Mayflies”

Order Overview

With “Ephemeroptera” derived from the Greek word for “lasting a day,” this order of insects earns its name from a notoriously short-lived adult lifespan, which can last less than 24 hours. However, young mayfly nymphs may feed and grow in streams, rivers, lakes, and ponds for up to two years. As important links in the freshwater food web, young mayflies are often voracious herbivores, detritivores, or even carnivores, in addition to being preferred food sources for many freshwater carnivores. Mayfly nymphs usually have three tails (always two cerci, and often a central caudal filament) at the end of the abdomen, one tarsal claw on each leg, and feathery or plate-like abdominal gills.

Full Character List

Wings developing into wing pads.
Mouthparts suitable for chewing. Gills present on tops and sides of abdomen.
Segmented legs present. One tarsal claw per leg. Usually with 3 tails (sometimes 2).

Size Range: 2.5-32mm
Pollution Tolerance: Sensitive



Life History

Mayflies, with over 3,400 species, make up one of the oldest orders of insects, with the first fossils dating to about 275 million years ago. They are hemimetabolous, without a pupal stage; however, they are unique in that they have a subimago stage, an extra life stage between the larva and the adult in which the insect has wings, but is still sexually immature. Most of their life is spent as aquatic larvae and most species spend only a few hours to no more than 3 days as flying adults. In the warmer months, adults of different species emerge in ‘swarms,’ or large densities, to ensure they will find a mate and reproduce quickly. Interestingly, adults do not feed and therefore do not have mouthparts. Different families and genera can be found in a variety of flowing-water and some still-water habitats. They can be burrowers in loose sediments, flat-bodied sprawlers on rocks, or fish-like and very streamlined in shape, making good swimmers.

