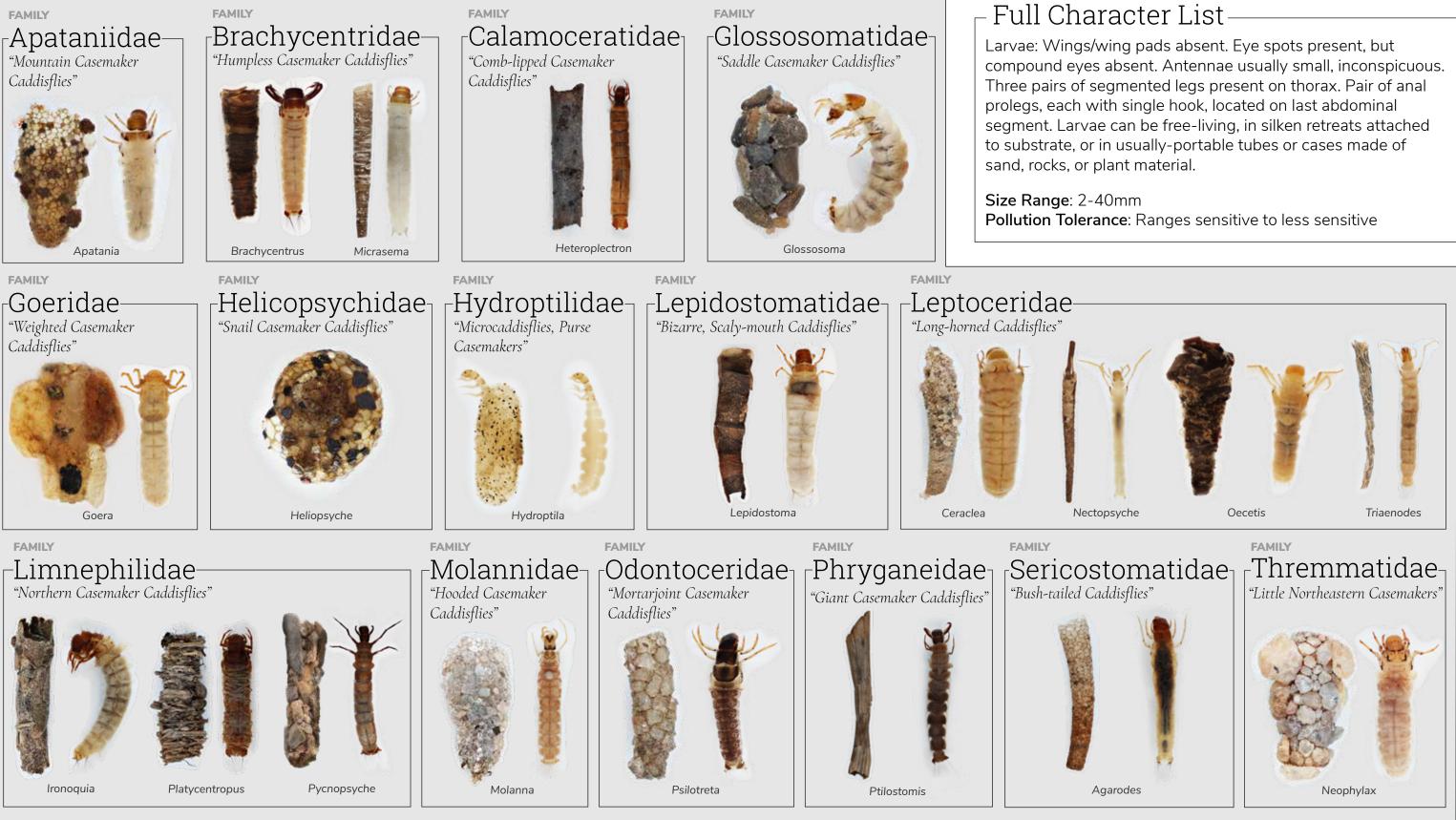
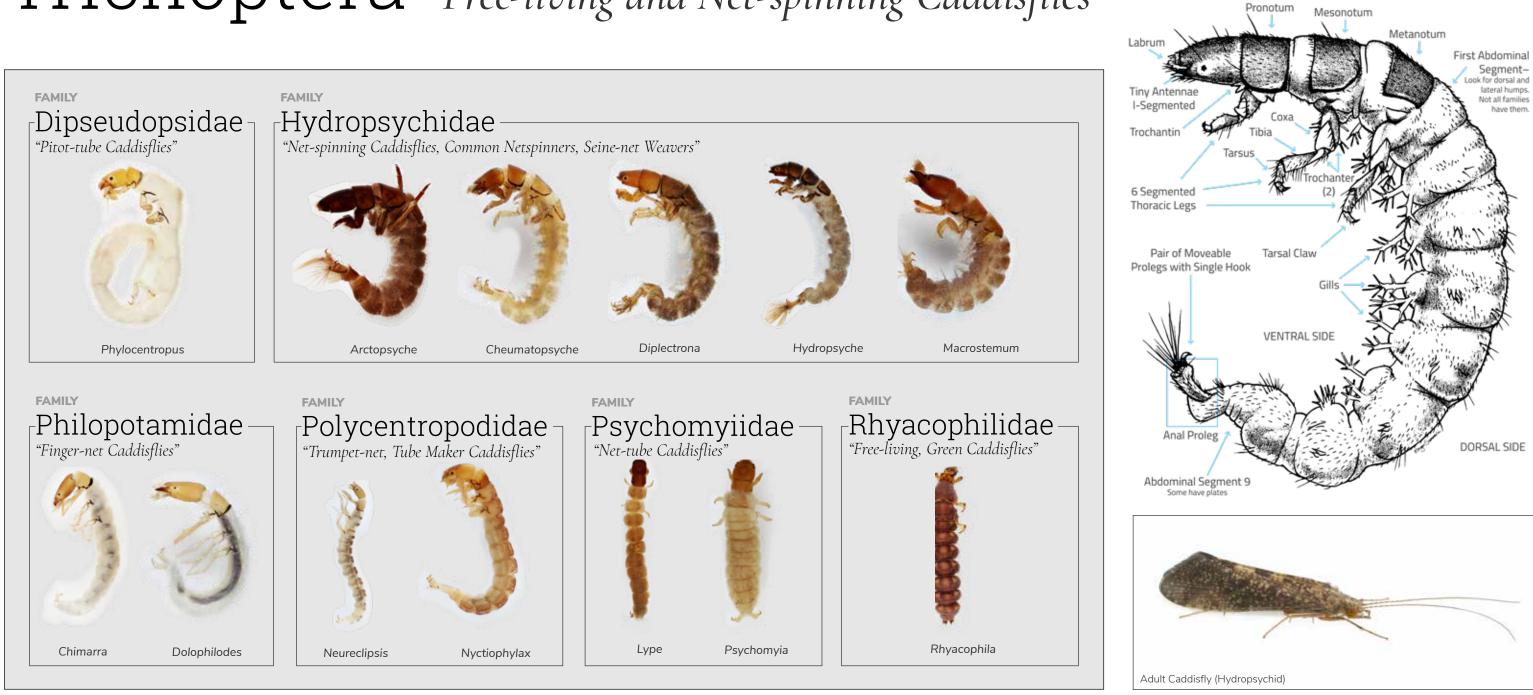
Trichoptera "Case-making Caddisflies"



Atlas of Common Freshwater

www.Macroinvertebrates.org of Eastern North America

Trichoptera "Free-living and Net-spinning Caddisflies"



-Order Overview

Caddisfly larvae (2-40 mm) inhabit a broad scope of freshwater habitats, including streams, rivers, lakes, and ponds, before undergoing complete metamorphosis (holometabolous metamorphosis) into winged adults. Many larvae are known for their ability to construct cases from sticky homespun silk and sand grains, pebbles, or plant matter, but other species may be free-living or form silken nets to capture particles from the water column. In addition to being important food sources in aquatic food webs, caddisfly species can be found across all feeding guilds for macroinvertebrates, including shredders, scrapers, and collector-filterers. Larvae can be distinguished by six well-developed legs on a worm-like cylindrical body and a pair of claw-bearing prolegs at the end of the abdomen.