



Caddisfly Larva

What they look like

The Caddisfly Larva (plural – larvae) are caterpillar-like with three pairs of well-developed legs on the first three body segments and hooks on the last one. Caddisflies are related to butterflies and moths.

Where they live

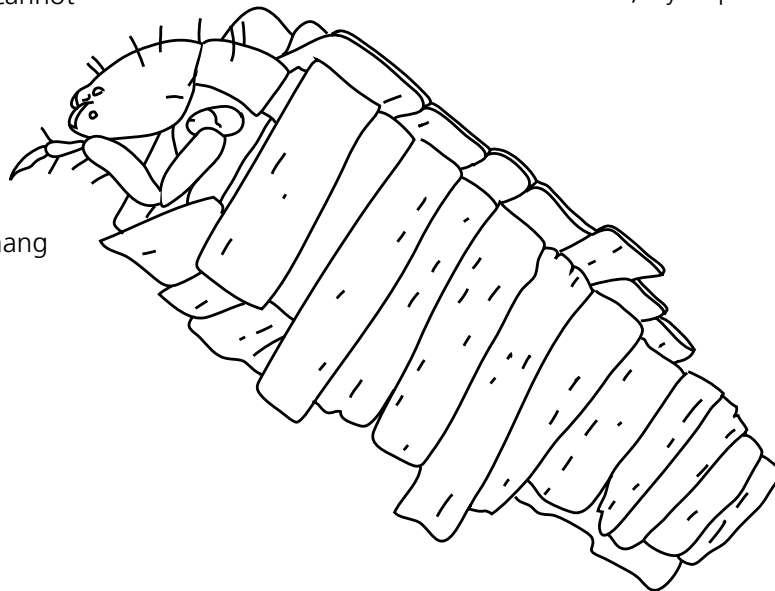
They live in a wide range of environments from fast flowing streams to freshwater ponds. Their soft bodies are usually covered in a protective silky case, while some Caddisfly live in fixed homes rather than mobile cases. They use the hooks at the end of their abdomen to hold on to their cases. Some species do not live in cases, using their hooks instead to cling to the stream bed and also to drag themselves backwards to escape from predators.

What they eat

The Caddisfly Larva eats algae and other plants (living and dead). Some species feed on other insects and spin silky nets to capture their prey. Some eat the larvae of other Caddisfly species, while others scrape algae from stones or plants, or shred leaf litter.

Pollution tolerance Sensitive, rating 8

The Caddisfly Larva cannot tolerate low oxygen levels and those that break up leaf litter for food require vegetated streams, with trees that overhang the water.



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Pollution tolerance	Very sensitive Sensitive Tolerant Very tolerant
Size	Up to 25 mm long

What's interesting about the Caddisfly Larva?

- Typically they use silk to build cases from gravel, twigs, needles, or sand, depending on the species but not all Caddisfly larva build cases. They often lose their cases if removed from the stream.
- They are an important food for many fish.

Where they fit in

Phylum Arthropoda > **Class** Insecta > **Order**

Trichoptera > **Family** (26 Australian families):

Hydrobiosidae; Glossosomatidae; Philopotamidae; Stenopsychidae; Ecnomidae; Hydropsychidae; Dipseudopsidae; Polycentropodidae; Psychomyiidae; Leptoceridae; Limnephilidae; Plectrotarsidae; Oeconesidae; Tasimiidae; Chathamidae; Antipodoeciidae; Helicopsychidae; Calocidae; Kokiriidae; Odontoceridae; Calamoceratidae; Atriplectididae; Helicophidae; Philorheithridae; Conoesucidae; Hydroptilidae

