

Beetle Larva

These belong to the order *Coleoptera* (coll-ee-op-terra). It comes from the Greek words "koleos," (sheath), and "ptera," (wings). The name refers to the adults hardened front wings, which cover the folded hind wings like a sheath.

What they look like

There are many types of beetle larvae (the plural of larva), so it is difficult to give a precise description. Generally they are segmented and cylindrical with six legs and a distinct head.

Where they live

They live in a large range of habitats; often found in mountain streams or slow-moving rivers, puddles, dams and lakes.

What they eat

Beetle Larvae eat plant or animal matter. They usually have biting mouth parts.

Pollution tolerance

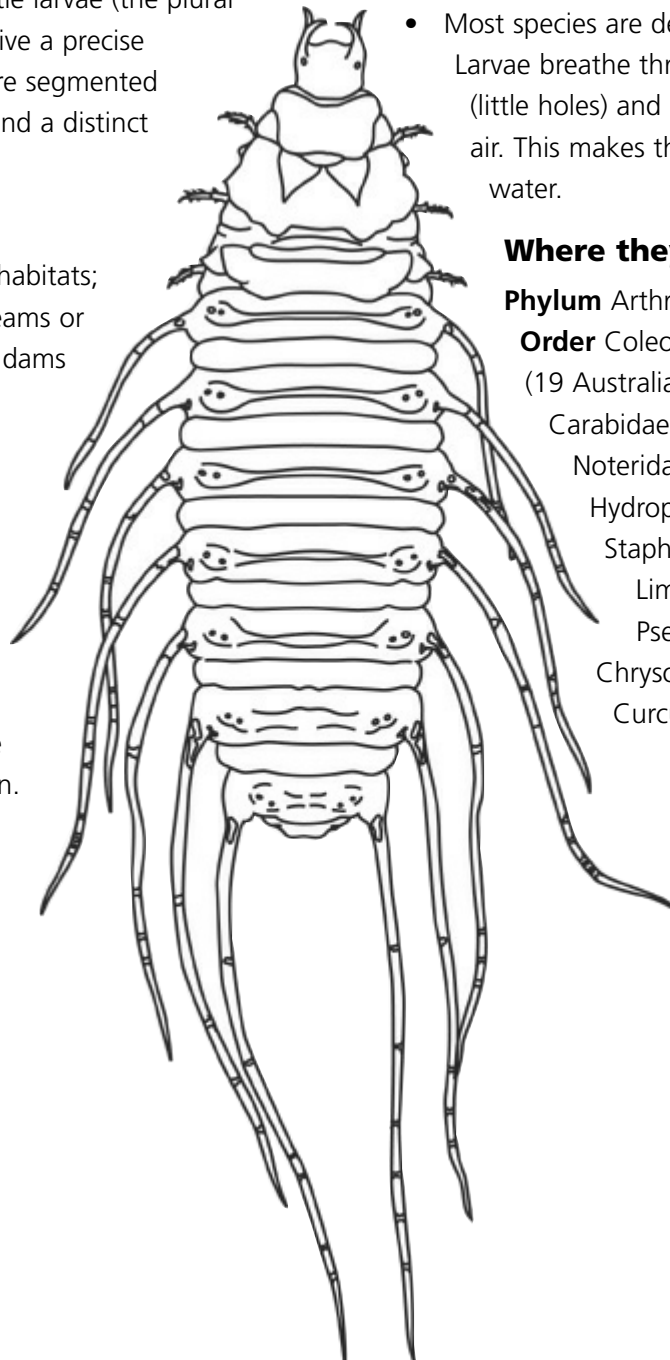
Tolerant, rating 5

Beetle Larvae cannot tolerate low levels of dissolved oxygen.

	▼
Pollution tolerance	Very sensitive Sensitive Tolerant Very tolerant
Size	2 - 20 mm long

What's interesting about Beetle Larvae?

- We live in the Age of Beetles - Coleoptera is the largest order in the entire animal kingdom. There are more species of beetles than there are species of plants!
- Most species are dependent on air. Larvae breathe through their gills or spiracles (little holes) and do not need to come up for air. This makes them look silvery under water.



Where they fit in

Phylum Arthropoda > **Class** Insecta >

Order Coleoptera > **Family**

(19 Australian families): Microsporidae; Carabidae; Haliplidae; Hygrobiidae; Noteridae; Dytiscidae; Gyrinidae; Hydrophilidae; Hydraenidae; Staphylinidae; Scirtidae; Elmidae; Limnichidae; Heteroceridae; Psephenidae; Ptilodactylidae; Chrysomelidae; Brentidae; Curculionidae.