



caddisfly

representative species

Kingdom: Animalia
 Division/Phylum: Arthropoda
 Class: Insecta
 Order: Trichoptera
 Family:

FEATURES

Caddisflies undergo complete metamorphosis (egg, larva, pupa, adult). The larva may grow to one inch in length. It has six, hooked legs on the front one-third of the soft, wormlike body. Some larvae spin silk to make an underwater house while others build and live in a tubelike case of sand, leaves, vegetation or other small objects and still others are free-swimming. The yellow, brown or green larva breathes through its body surface or uses abdominal gills. The caddisfly adult is mothlike, brown and usually nocturnal. Its wings are covered with hairs. The adult has long antennae and two pairs of membranous wings that are held over the back like a tent when at rest. The hind wings are a little shorter than the front wings. The mouthparts are for sponging.

BEHAVIORS

Caddisfly larvae live in ponds and streams. A caddisfly larva may rub its forelegs against its head to make vibrations intended to scare away intruders. The larval case provides protection, camouflage and added weight to help the larva remain in one place in the stream. The female usually deposits eggs in a gelatinous mass or in strings

attached to submerged vegetation or other objects, although some lay their eggs at the surface. The larva molts about five times before entering the pupa stage which lasts about two weeks. Another molt occurs after exiting the pupal case. The adult lives for about two months, mating and depositing eggs along the water's edge during this time. The larva's feeding habits depend on the species, with some eating dead plant material, some filter feeding, some eating algae and some acting as predators. The adults eat mainly liquids.

HABITATS

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> bottomland forests | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> rivers & streams |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> lakes, ponds & reservoirs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> swamps |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Michigan | <input type="checkbox"/> temp water supplies |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> marshes | <input type="checkbox"/> wet prairies & fens |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> peatlands | |

ILLINOIS STATUS

- | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> common | <input type="checkbox"/> endangered | <input type="checkbox"/> threatened |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> native | <input type="checkbox"/> exotic | |

ILLINOIS RANGE

statewide

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999. *Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume I: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.