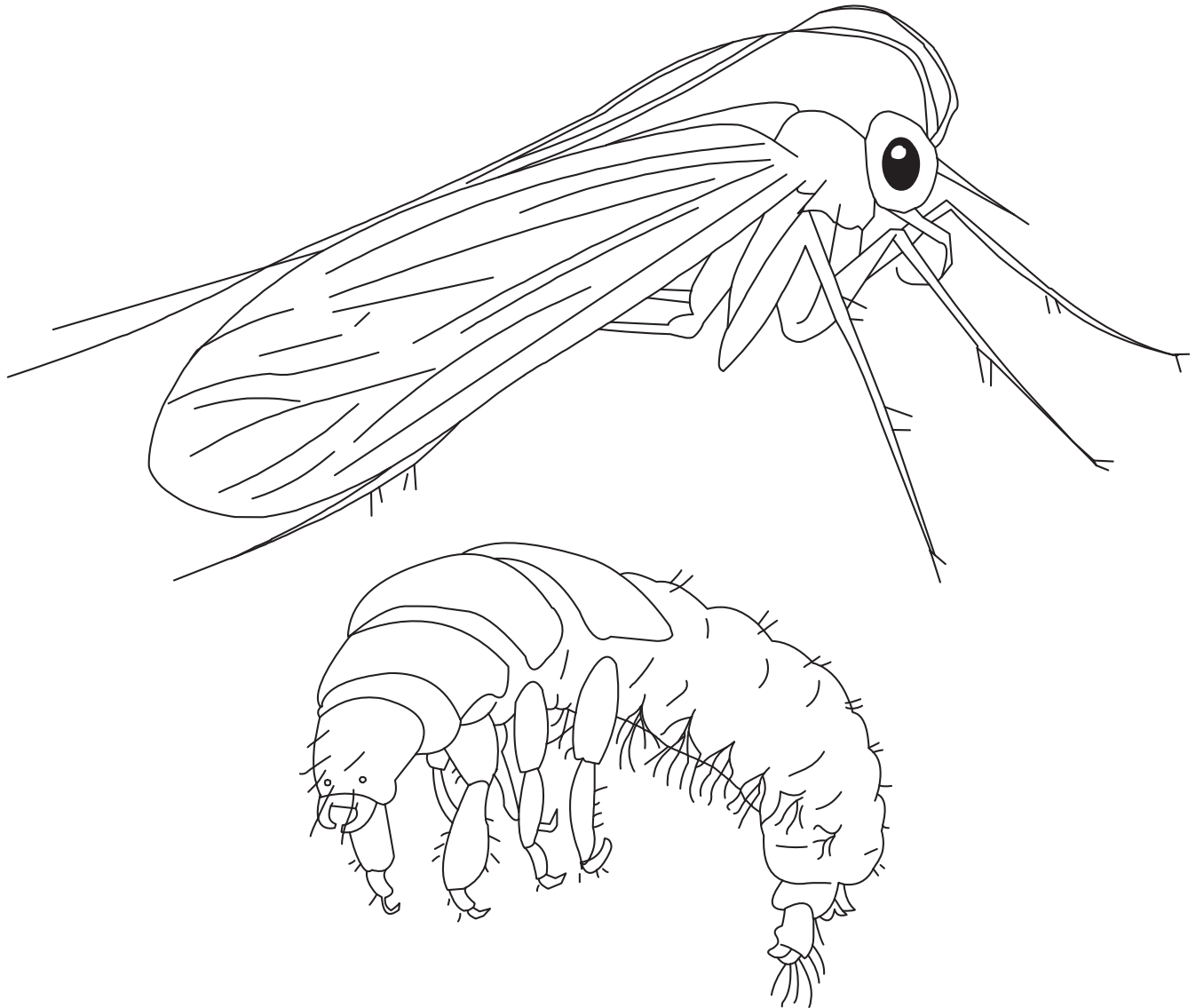




Inside the world of **macros**

Macroinvertebrates are animals without a backbone that you can see without using a microscope or magnifying glass. Macros that live on or in the ground beneath the water are called benthic macros and include snails, mussels, crayfish, worms and leeches. Scientists look for young (nymph or larva) benthic macros to measure water quality. Certain macros can tolerate polluted water, while other types cannot. Healthy waters usually have many different kinds of macros.



Macroinvertebrate (MAC-row-in-VERT-ih-brate)

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Caddisflies, order Trichoptera, is the largest group of entirely aquatic insects. Caddisfly have hardened plates on all three of the thorax segments, and branched filamentous gills on the bottom of most abdomen segments. Caddisfly larvae resemble a caterpillar. They cannot live in polluted water.