

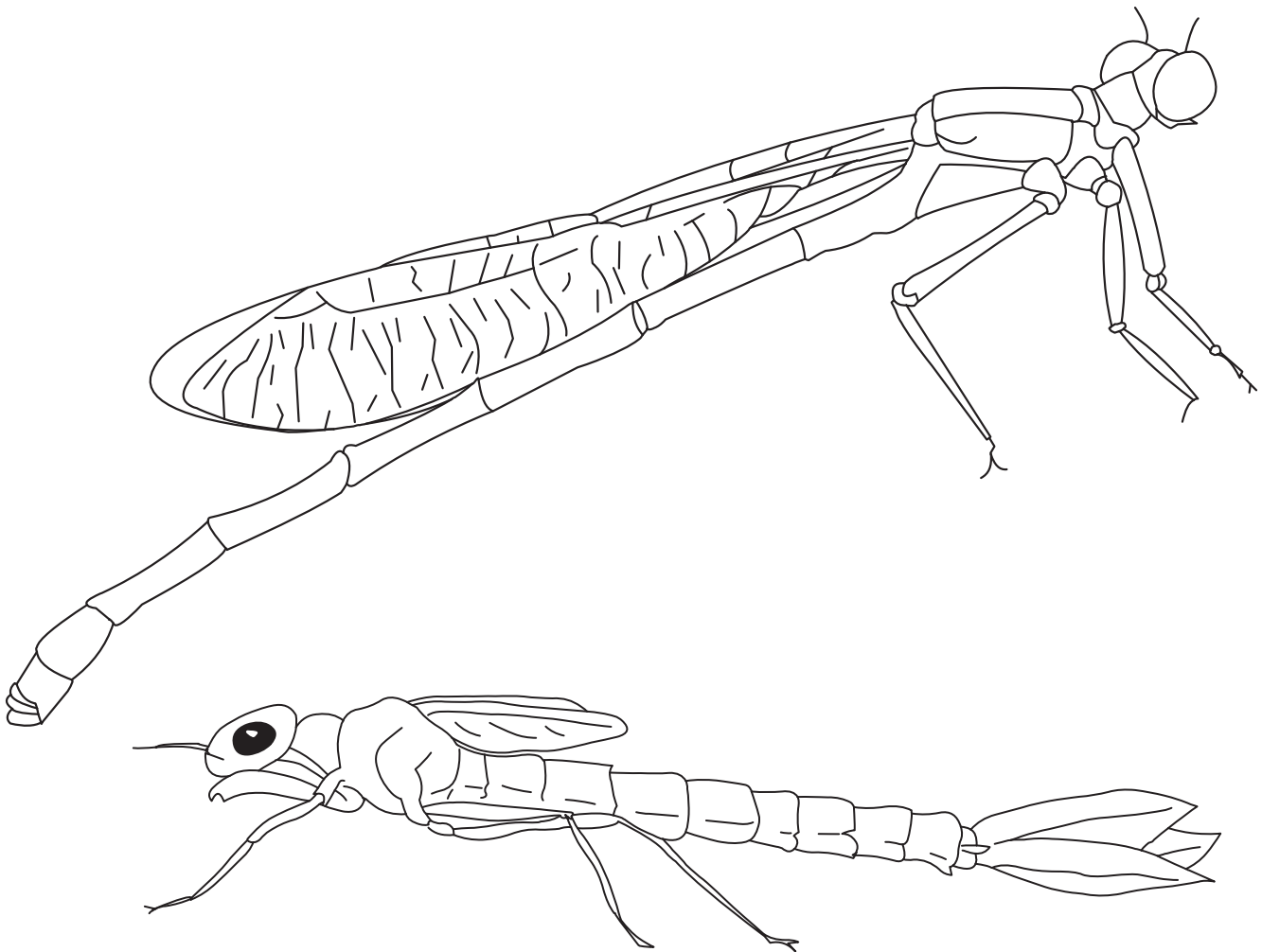


Inside the world of **macros**

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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Damselflies, order Odonata, have an elongate body and most noticeably have three long gills projecting from the abdomen. The head is wider than the thorax and the abdomen. Damselflies prefer good water quality but are somewhat tolerant of degraded water quality.