



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.



Dragonflies, order Odonata, are similar to damselflies, but the body of the nymph tends to be long and stout or oval and flattened. Dragonflies do not have gills on the abdomen. Three short, stiff, pointed structures occur at the end of the abdomen. They can live in water that is somewhat impaired water. Both adults and nymphs are predators.

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

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