

# Damselfly Nymph

Order: Odonata

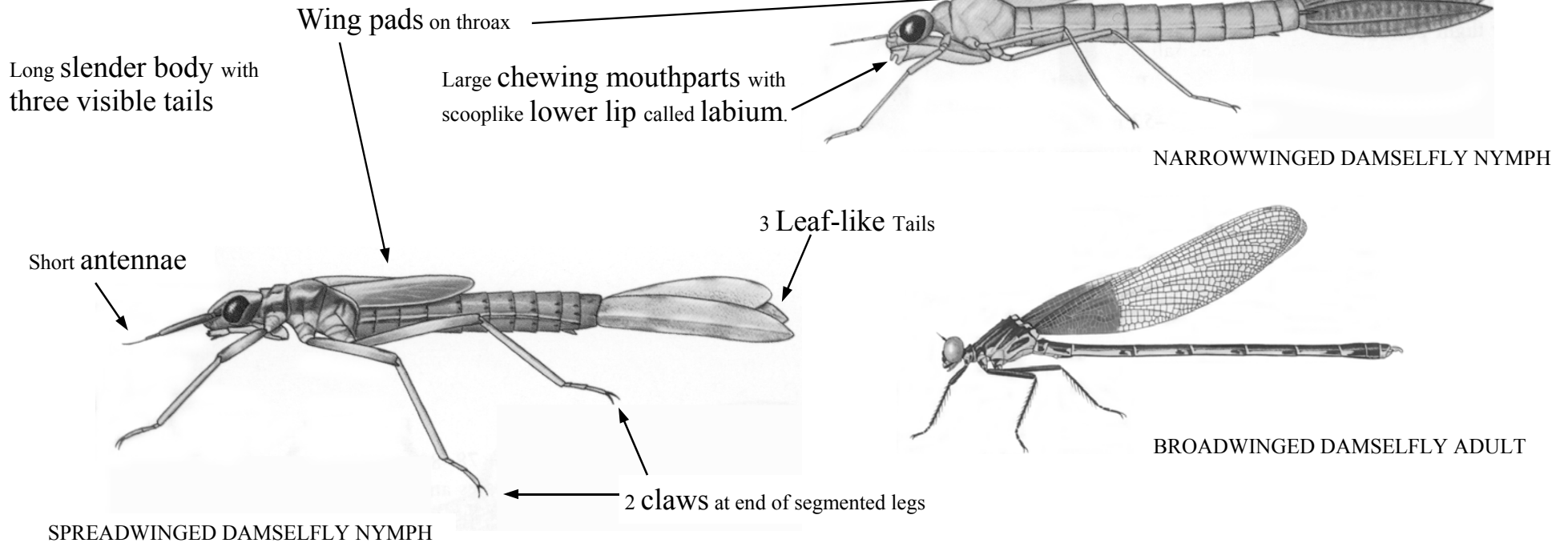
Families: *Calopterygidae*– Broadwinged  
*Lestidae*– Spreadwinged

Number of species in North America: 407



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Size: Broadwinged: 25-50mm (nymph)  
Spreadwinged: 22-26mm (nymph)



Credits: McCafferty, W. Patrick. *Aquatic Entomology*, 1981.

## SIMILAR TO: dragonfly

- A damselfly's head is wider than thorax and abdomen, while a dragonfly's is narrower.
- Damselflies have three elongated gills rear of abdomen, while dragonflies do not.

**Diet:** Zooplankton, mayflies, other damselflies, any prey that can be subdued.

**Food for:** Game fish, predaceous water insects.

**Habitat:** Still waters, ponds, lakes, streams, and rivers.

**Movement:** Swim feebly by waving long thin abdomen side to side.

**Breathing:** Closed breathing system– spread gills as far as possible to circulate water and also diffusion across skin of body.

**Water Quality Indicator:** Group II– can exist under a wide range of water quality conditions; a large number indicates MODERATE water quality.

## Life Cycle Corner

