

Order: Ephemeroptera Families: Baetidae– Small minnow
 Heptageniidae– Flatheaded
 Ephemeridae– Common Burrower

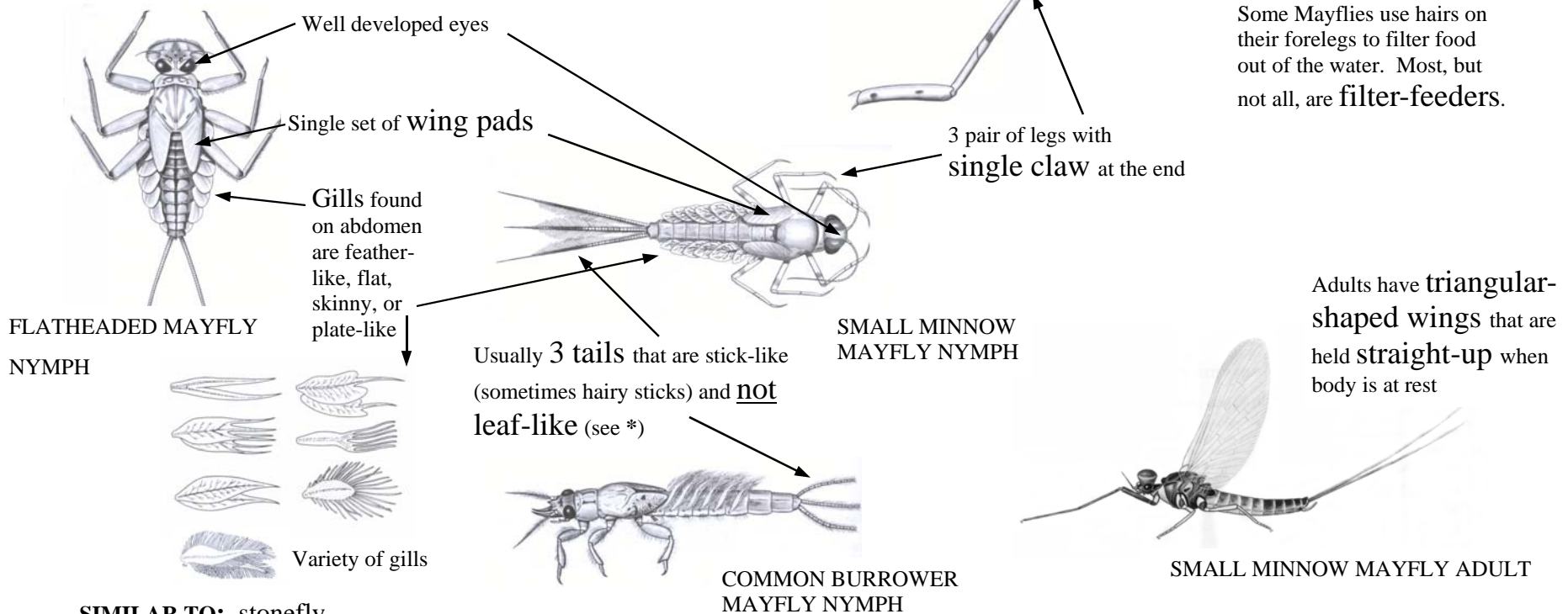


CREEK CONNECTIONS,
 Allegheny College

Mayfly Nymph

Number of species in North America: 149

Size: 3-20mm (nymph) / 5-8mm (adult)



Some Mayflies use hairs on their forelegs to filter food out of the water. Most, but not all, are filter-feeders.

Adults have triangular-shaped wings that are held straight-up when body is at rest

SIMILAR TO: stonefly

- Mayflies have 3 tails*, while stoneflies have 2.
- Mayflies have 1 claw, while stoneflies have 2.
- Mayflies have abdominal gills, while stoneflies do not.
- Mayflies have a single set of wingpads, while stoneflies have double.
- Mayflies have short antennae, while stoneflies have long.

* Just a general rule; some species only have 2 tails. Often, tails break off easily.

Diet: Microscopic algae, small bits of organic matter, pieces of plants; a few eat other insects.
Food for: Game fish, predaceous water insects.
Habitat: Bottom dwellers; flowing waters (streams and rivers), ponds and shallow lakes.
Movement: Swim, cling to rocks, some burrow.
Breathing: Through gills on abdomen.
Water Quality Indicator: Group 1– generally sensitive to pollution; a large number indicates GOOD water quality.

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

Life Cycle Corner

Incomplete Metamorphosis

