

Midge (Chironomid)

Order: Diptera Family: Chironomidae

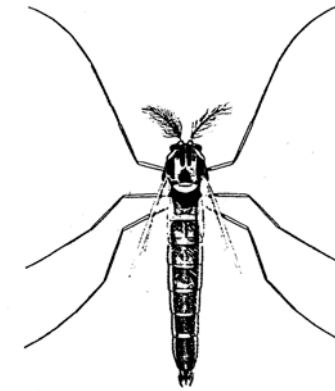
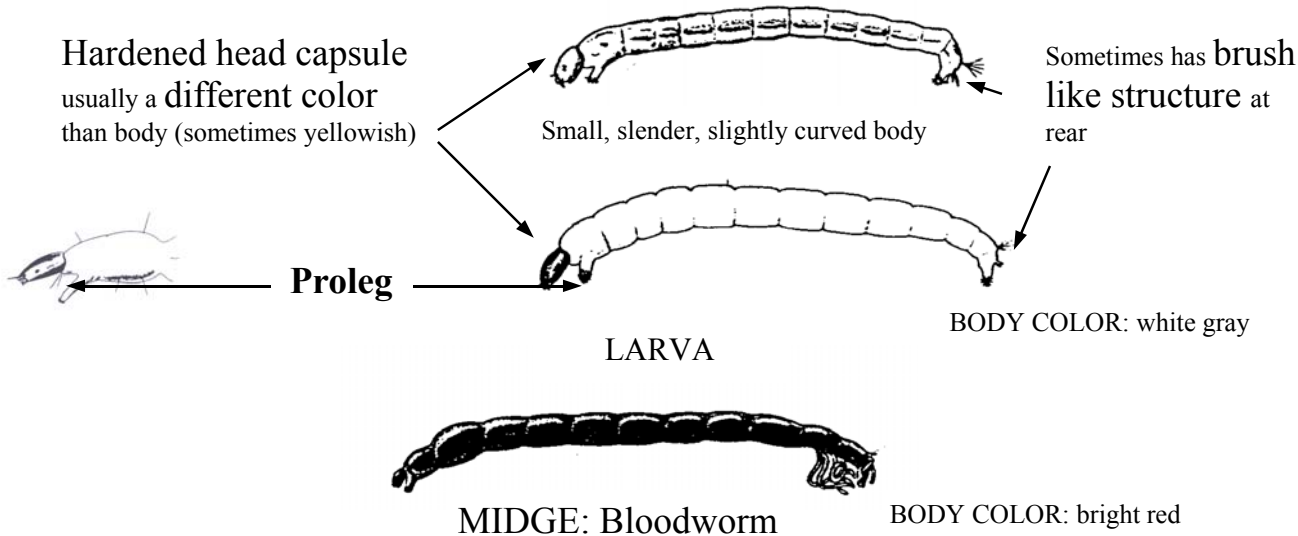
Number of species in North America: 2,000



CREEK CONNECTIONS,
Allegheny College

Size: 2-20 mm (larva) / 8-9 mm (adult)

Hardened head capsule
usually a different color
than body (sometimes yellowish)



ADULT

SIMILAR LOOKING FAMILIES

Phantom Midge larva



Biting Midge larva and adult



DON'T CONFUSE WITH:

Aquatic Worms, Crane Fly Larva, Watersnipe Fly Larva, Blackfly Larva

Diet: Fine detritus, microorganisms, plant parts, decaying wood, insect parts, algae.

Food for: Fish, especially trout, predaceous water insects.

Habitat: Bottom dweller in the mud, stones or plants, most widely adapted to any freshwater environment.

Movement: Can float in water or scurry along bottom, some swim in still water.

Breathing: Through skin or by obtaining surface air through a breathing tube. Some types have gills.

Water Quality Indicator: Group III- can tolerate polluted waters.

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

and
Reid, K. George. *A Golden Guide to Pond Life*, 1995.

Life Cycle Corner

Eggs layered in a tear shaped mass in a long ribbon of clear mucus attached to underwater plants, logs, and rocks.

Complete metamorphosis

