

# Mosquito Larvae

Order: Diptera Family: Culicidae

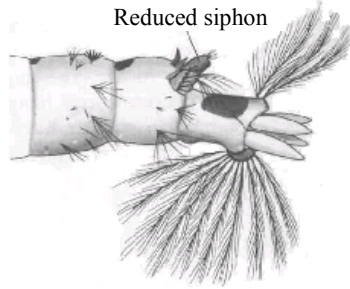
Number of species in North America: 166



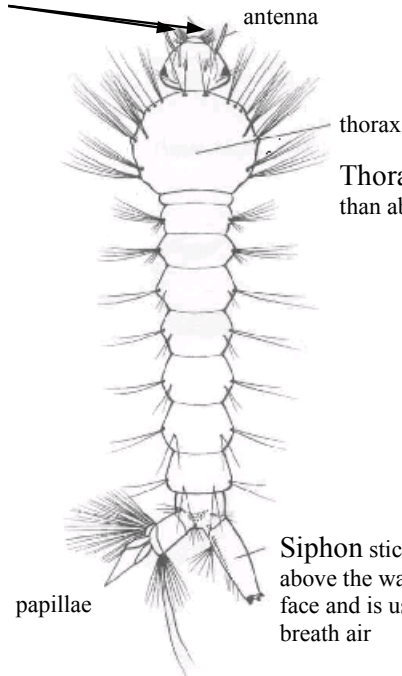
CREEK CONNECTIONS,  
Allegheny College

Size: 4-14 mm

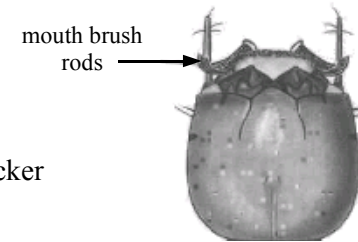
Mouth brushes consist of 10 short rods used to collect food



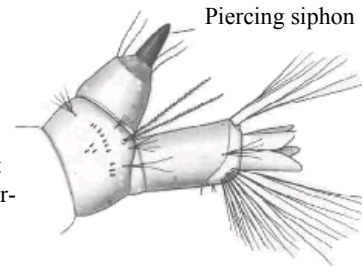
ANOPHELINEAE LARVA end of abdomen



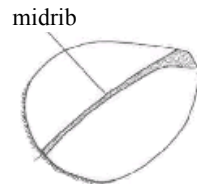
CULICINAE LARVA



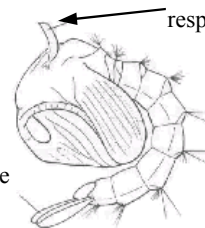
TOXORHYNCHITINAE LARVA head



CULICINAE LARVA, end of abdomen



Paddle is used by pupa to swim in a jerking motion



paddle

**Diet:** Collector-filterers collect algae, bacteria, fungi and protozoa, some feed on other species of mosquito larva.  
**Habitat:** Any type of still water habitat.  
**Movement:** Swimmers, both larvae and pupae swim below the surface by alternately bending and unbending the body.  
**Breathing:** Siphons and respiratory horns collect oxygen from air above the surface.

Credits: McCafferty, W. Patrick. *Aquatic Entomology*, 1981.  
and  
Voshell, Reese J. Jr.. *A Guide to Common Freshwater Invertebrates of North America*, 2002.

## Life Cycle Corner

Complete metamorphosis

