Field Cards

For Identifying

Dragonfly Larvae

To

Family

For use with Mercury in Dragonfly Larvae from National Parks Citizen Science Dragonfly Larvae Collection

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For use with Mercury in Dragonfly Larvae from National Parks Citizen Science Dragonfly Larvae Collection

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Dragonfly Larva General Body Plan

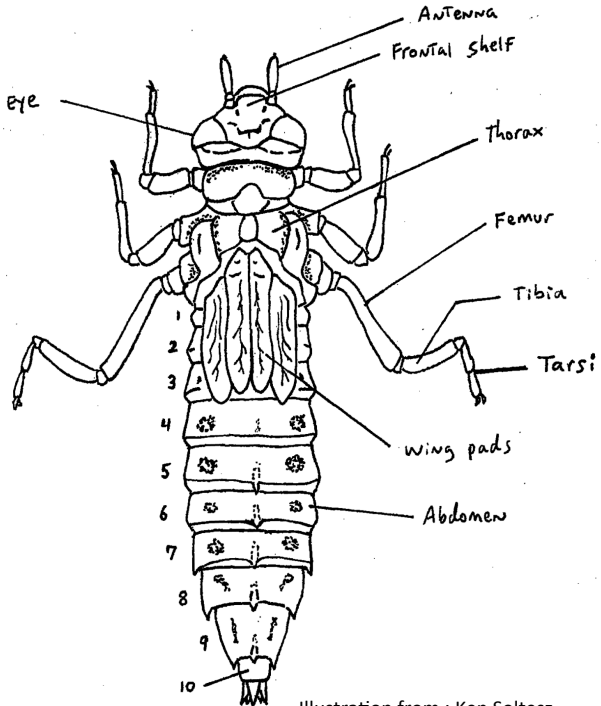
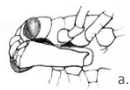
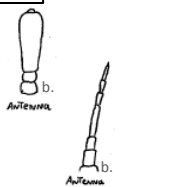
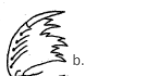
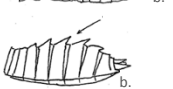


Illustration from : Ken Soltesz

For use with Mercury in Dragonfly Larvae from National Parks Citizen Science Dragonfly Larvae Collection

Key for identifying Dragonfly Larvae to family

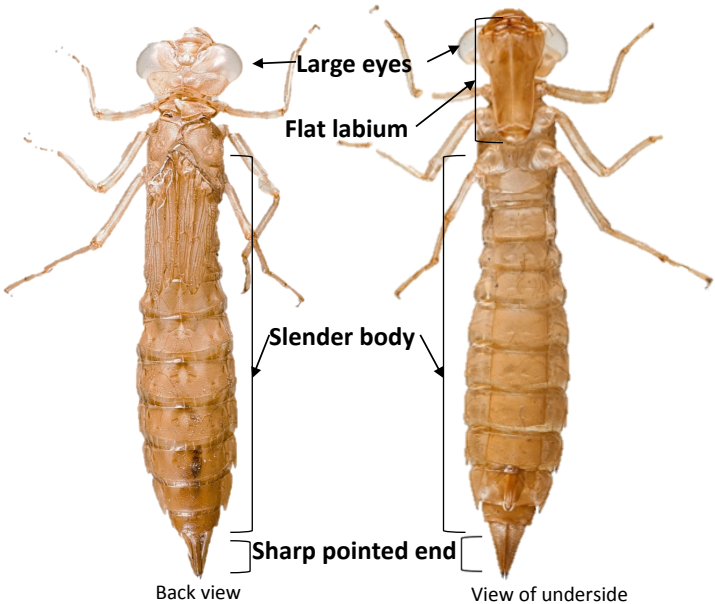
1a	Labium is flat, or nearly flat ..... go to	2	
1b	Labium is spoon-shaped or mask-shaped and covers the face ..... go to	3	
2a	Antennae short and stubby ..... *Gomphidae*		
2b	Antennae long, body is slender .... *Aeshnidae*		
3a	Lateral lobes of labium have jagged teeth ..... *Cordulegastridae*		
3b	Lateral lobes of labium do not have jagged teeth ..... go to	4	
4a	Horn on front of head (sticks up between the eyes) ..... *Macromiidae*		
4b	No horn on front of head ..... go to	5	
5a	If hooks present on back of abdomen they are curved..... *Corduliidae*		
5b	If hooks present on back of abdomen they are spiky..... *Libelullidae*		

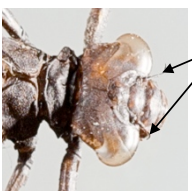
Illustrations:
a.. from : www.bumblebee.org
b. from : Ken Soltesz

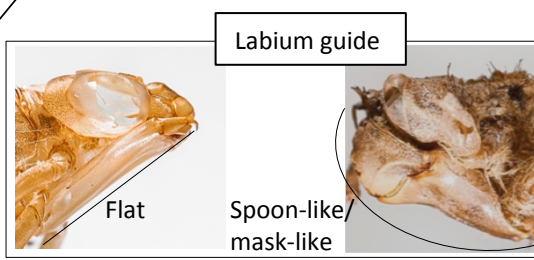
Family: **Aeshnidae**

Common name: Darner dragonflies

Usually found: At the edges of ponds and lakes or in marshes and bogs







Photos of exuviae: A. Anderson, Kingfisher Photography, Old Town, ME

Family: Aeshnidae

Common name: Darner dragonflies

Usually found: At the edges of ponds and lakes or in marshes and bogs

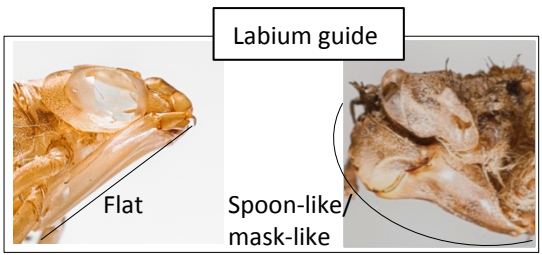
Common Green Darner

http://informatics.bio.umass.edu/research/odenews/bnikula/anjuf.jpg

Family: **Gomphidae**

Common name: Club-tailed dragonflies

Usually found: In very small streams and ponds to large rivers and lakes



Photos of exuviae: A. Anderson, Kingfisher Photography, Old Town, ME

Family: Gomphidae

Common name: Club-tailed dragonflies

Usually found: In very small streams and ponds to large rivers and lakes

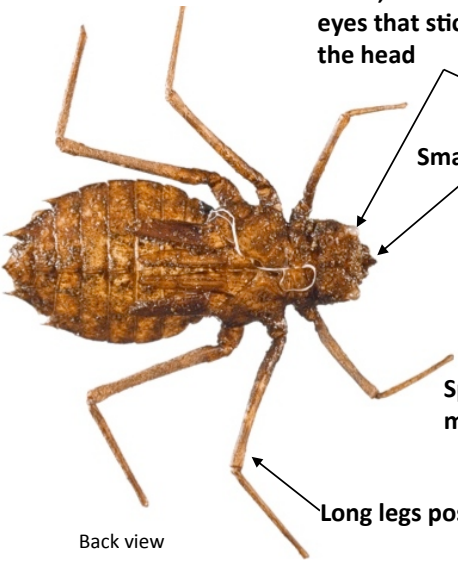
Dragonhunter

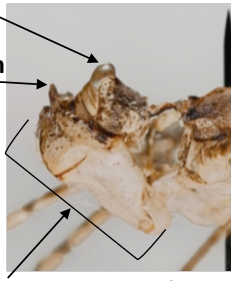
http://informatics.bio.umass.edu/research/odenews/bnikula/habr.jpg

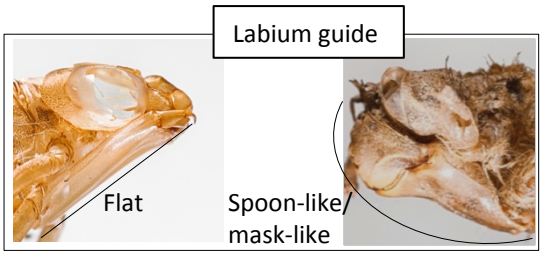
Family: **Macromiidae**

Common name: Cruiser dragonflies

Usually found: in rivers, streams, and lakes with moving water







Photos of exuviae: A. Anderson, Kingfisher Photography, Old Town, ME

Family: Macromiidae
Common name: Cruiser dragonflies
Usually found: in rivers, streams, and lakes with moving water

Swift River Cruiser

http://informatics.bio.umass.edu/research/odenews/bnikula/mail.jpg

Family: **Libellulidae**

Common name: Skimmer dragonflies

Usually found: In ponds, lakes, swamps, marshes and ditches (slow-moving water)

If present: **Spine-like protrusions on back of abdomen**

Side view

Spoon-like or mask-like labium

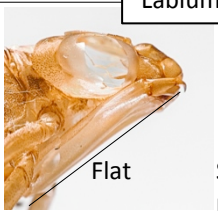
Smooth crenulations at the margin of the labium

Head-on view

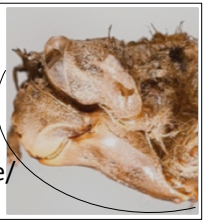
Stocky body

Back view

Labium guide



Flat



Spoon-like/ mask-like

Photos of exuviae: A. Anderson, Kingfisher Photography, Old Town, ME

Family: Libellulidae

Common name: Skimmer dragonflies

Usually found: In ponds, lakes, swamps, marshes and ditches (slow-moving water)

Calico Pennant

http://informatics.bio.umass.edu/research/odenews/bnikula/ceel.jpg

Family: **Corduliidae**

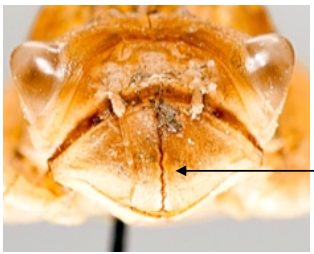
Common name: Emerald dragonflies

Usually found: In ponds, lakes, swamps, marshes and ditches (slow-moving water)

If present: **Curved protrusions on back of abdomen**

Side view

Spoon-like or mask-like labium



Head-on view

Smooth crenulations at the margin of the labium

Variable body shape

Back view

Labium guide

Flat

Spoon-like/ mask-like

Photos of exuviae: A. Anderson, Kingfisher Photography, Old Town, ME

Family: Corduliidae

Common name: Emerald dragonflies

Usually found: In ponds, lakes, swamps, marshes and ditches (slow-moving water)

American Emerald

http://informatics.bio.umass.edu/research/odenews/bnikula/cosh.jpg

Family: **Cordulegastridae**

Common name: Spiketail dragonflies

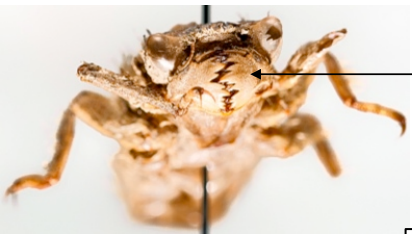
Usually found: in small mostly wooded streams

Spoon-like or mask-like labium

Side view

Stocky body

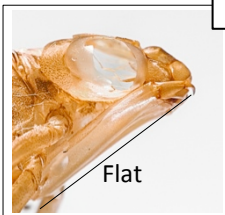
Back view



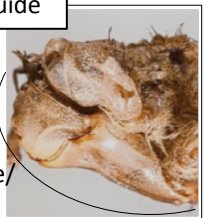
Very jagged teeth at the margin of the labium

Head-on view

Labium guide



Flat



Spoon-like/ mask-like

Photos of exuviae: A. Anderson, Kingfisher Photography, Old Town, ME

Family: Cordulegastridae
Common name: Spiketail dragonflies
Usually found: in small mostly wooded streams

Delta spotted spiketail

http://informatics.bio.umass.edu/research/odenews/bnikula/codi.jpg