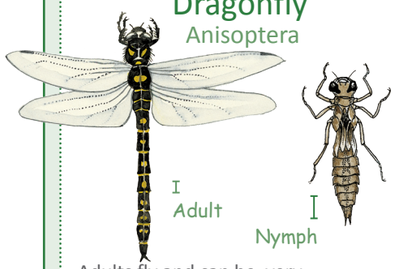
Sensitive

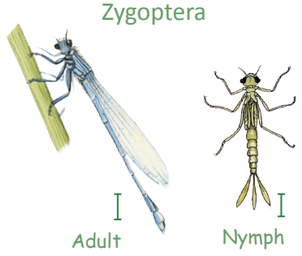
SCALE | is 5 mm

Dragonfly
Anisoptera



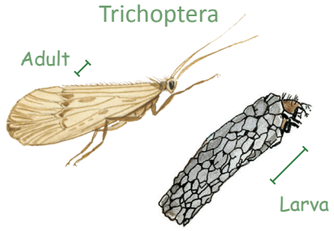
Adults fly and can be very colourful. Eats mosquitoes and other invertebrates. Nymphs live underwater and feed on small fish. Adults only live for a few days/weeks, whereas the nymphs can live under water for several years.

Damselfly
Zygoptera



Wings are folded above its body at rest. Similar to dragonflies but have a smaller and slimmer body. Larvae have three gills on the tip of the abdomen which look like tails.

Caddisfly
Trichoptera



The adult has hairy wings which is where its name was derived from. When the insect is at rest the wings form a tent shape over its body. The larva makes cases from plant material and sometimes sand particles which it uses for protection and camouflage.

Water Spider
Argyroneta aquatica

This is the only spider known to live almost all of its life underwater. It eats insects like mosquito larvae.

Freshwater Crab
Potamon ibericum

Very rare species. During the day it hides under stones or burrows in tunnels. It hunts at night on land and feeds on algae, worms, frogs and fish.

Daphnia or Water Flea
Daphnia spp.

Tiny planktonic organism.

Water Mite
Hydrachnidae

Tiny colourful mite. It is used to control mosquito numbers.

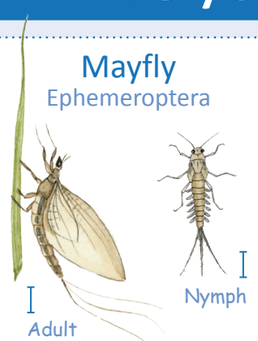
Very sensitive

SCALE | is 5 mm

Freshwater Mussel
Margaritifera auricularia

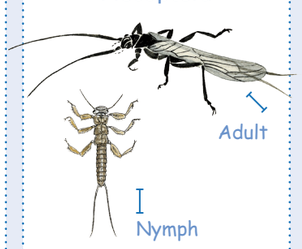
Very rare species. It is a filter feeder and lives partially buried in the riverbed. It can survive for over 100 years.

Mayfly
Ephemeroptera



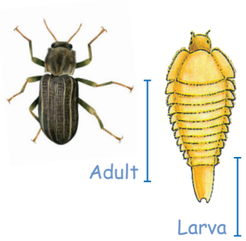
Adults have a short lifespan. Nymphs have three long tails and side gills on their abdomen.

Stonefly
Plecoptera



Adults fold hind wings under the front wings at rest. Nymphs have two tails.

Riffle Beetle
Stenelmis spp.



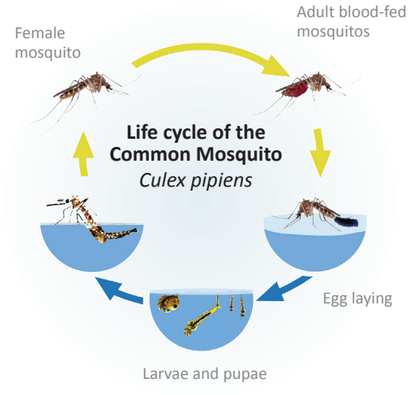
A small beetle with long legs. The larva looks like a small segmented caterpillar.

Cyprus wetland invertebrates

RIS-Ký
Researching Invasive Species in Kýpros

Cyprus wetlands are areas of significant environmental, social and cultural importance. They are characterised by a rich biodiversity, and many terrestrial and water animal species use them for resting, feeding and as a refuge. They are used as a migration stopover for large numbers of birds and insects during their journey from Europe to Africa and vice versa. They host a rich flora including many plant species used in traditional crafts such as basketry. Cyprus wetlands are vulnerable to pressures from agricultural intensification, urbanisation, invasive alien species, climate change and pollution, which can result in their degradation.

Cyprus wetlands host a large number of invertebrate species which are the main food source for many other fauna species. This guide provides simple but important information on invertebrates of Cyprus wetlands. These species are used as bio-indicators for assessing water quality due to the different level of sensitivity or tolerance to pollution.



Very tolerant

SCALE | is 5 mm

Mud Snail
Hydrobia

Feeds mainly on algae and diatoms, usually at the bottom of the watercourse.

Midge
Chironomus spp.

The adult looks like a mosquito but does not bite. The larva may have a bright red colour and is an important food source for fish and other invertebrates.

Tadpole
Amphibia

Not an invertebrate but an amphibian.

Included in the guide due to its common presence at wetlands.

Springtail
Collembola

Tiny and often hops at the water's surface. Feeds mainly on dead organic matter.

Leech
Hirundinea

Feeds on insect larvae and molluscs, has no teeth and can swallow prey whole.

Segmented worm
Annelida

Its body consists of multiple ring segments and mainly feeds on organic matter.

DARWIN INITIATIVE

Akrotiri Environmental Education Centre
Κέντρο Περιβαλλοντικής Εκπαίδευσης Ακρωτηρίου

ΠΑΙΔΑΓΩΓΙΚΟ ΙΝΣΤΙΤΟΥΤΟ ΚΥΠΡΟΥ

ΜΟΝΑΔΑ ΕΚΠΑΙΔΕΥΣΗΣ ΓΙΑ ΤΟ ΠΕΡΙΒΑΛΛΟΝ ΚΑΙ ΤΗΝ ΑΕΙΦΟΡΟ ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗ

FSC

Joint Services Health Unit

UK CEH

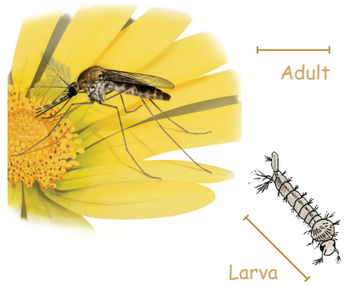
The Three Mosquiteers

This guide was written by Peter Scarlett, Jodey Peyton, Koula Michael, Sophie Kamenou and Angeliki F. Martinou. The project was funded by the Defra Darwin Initiative Plus (DarwinPlus088 Addressing drivers of ecological change at Akrotiri Salt Lake). Text © CEH-UK 2020. Images © Chris Shields 2020 and Anne Bebbington (© Field Studies Council UK 2020).

Tolerant

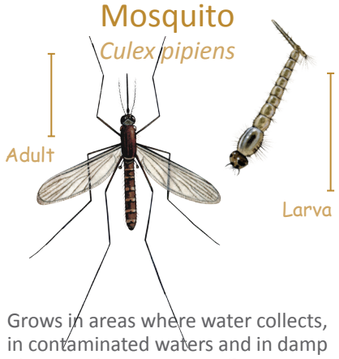
SCALE | is 5 mm

Saltmarsh Mosquito
Aedes detritus



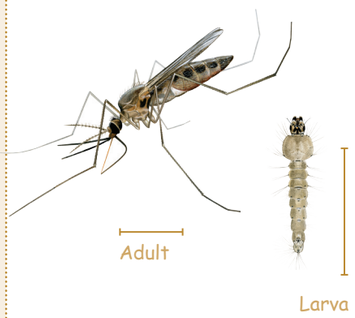
Reproduces in salt marshes. The female requires blood to produce eggs which it then lays on wet sand. In the Mediterranean it has not been found to be a vector of diseases. It bites at dawn and dusk.

Common House Mosquito
Culex pipiens



Grows in areas where water collects, in contaminated waters and in damp places such as gutters or flowerpots. The adult female mosquito requires blood to produce eggs which it then lays on the surface of the water. It usually bites during the night and is a vector of many diseases such as the West Nile virus.

Anopheles Mosquito
Anopheles sacharovi

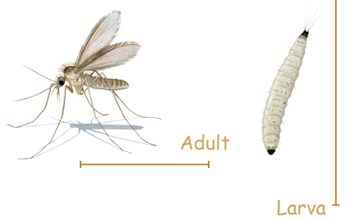


Breeds primarily in brackish marshes. The adult female mosquito needs blood to produce eggs which it then lays on the surface of the water. It mostly bites during the night and it is an important vector of malaria.

Blackfly
Simuliidae

A small black fly species whose larva looks like a worm. The adult female bites people and cattle and is a vector of diseases.

Sandfly
Phlebotomus spp.

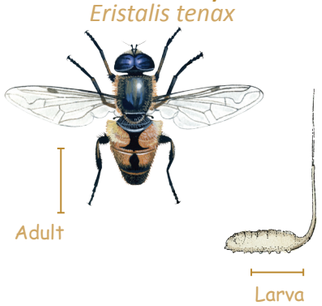


A small hairy fly species whose larva has a black head and hairs on the entire body. It is a vector of diseases like leishmaniasis.

Horsefly
Tabanidae

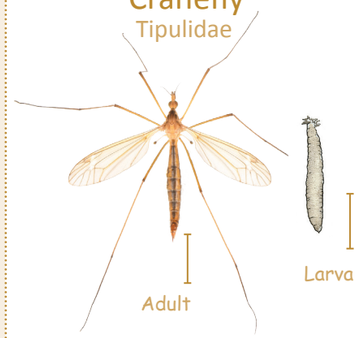
A fly species of medium to large size. The larva looks like a worm. Adult females bite humans and cattle and are vectors of diseases.

Hoverfly
Eristalis tenax



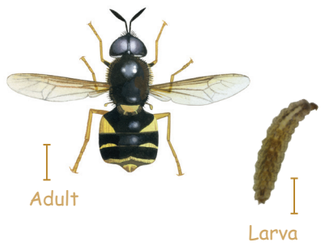
The adult hoverfly looks like a bee which protects it from predators. The larva looks like a worm and lives in water. It has a characteristic long tail which acts like a breathing tube.

Cranefly
Tipulidae



The adult looks like a giant mosquito, but it does not bite. Larvae look like worms. It is called Cranefly because of its long legs.

Soldierfly
Stratiomys spp.

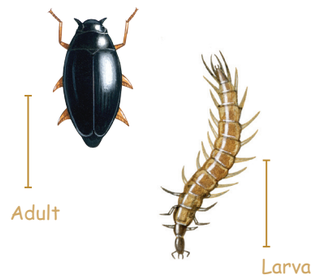


A small, two-winged yellow-black species which looks like a wasp. The larva looks like a caterpillar and breathes in the water through a tube.

Tolerant

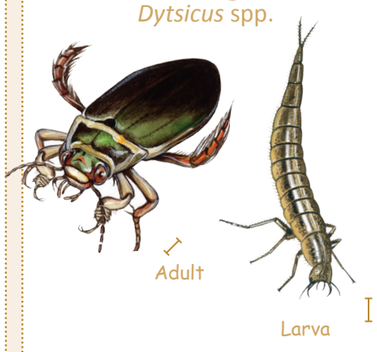
SCALE | is 5 mm

Whirligig Beetle
Gyrinidae



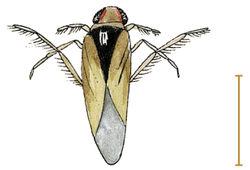
A small beetle usually found in large groups. It swims swiftly at the water's surface. It was named Whirligig as it swims in continuous circular movements when in danger. It protects itself from predators by emitting a foul-smelling liquid.

Great Diving Beetle
Dytsicus spp.



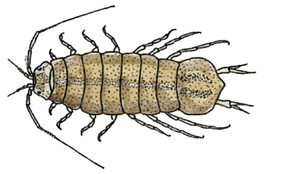
A large dark brown or green beetle. It is a voracious predator and can even eat small fish or newts. It protects itself from predators by emitting a foul-smelling liquid. The larva is also a predator and injects poison into its victims.

Water Boatman
Notonecta spp.



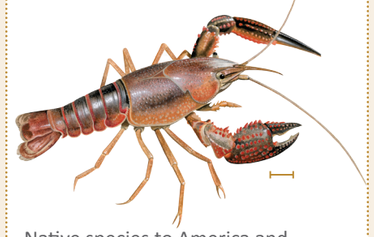
Feeds on mosquito larvae. Rests upside down in the water and uses its hind legs as oars to swim fast. Using its wings, it flies to new habitats.

Waterlouse
Asellus aquaticus



Looks like woodlice. It often hides under stones and feeds on decaying organic matter.

Red Swamp Crayfish
Procambarus clarkii



Native species to America and Mexico. In Cyprus it has been classified as an alien invasive species. It eats insects and plants.

Freshwater Shrimp
Gammarus pulex

Lives at the bottom of streams and occurs in large numbers. It feeds on algae and protozoa.

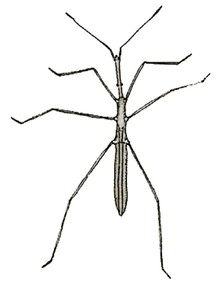
Megacyclops
Megacyclops viridis

Feeds on mosquito larvae and carries parasites to mosquitoes, so may be useful for controlling mosquito numbers.

Water Strider
Gerridae

Feeds on mosquito larvae by piercing and then sucking out body contents. In turn it is eaten by birds and fish but can dive or fly to escape predators.

Water Measurer
Hydrometridae



A long and thin insect feeding on mosquito larvae. When disturbed it jumps on the surface.

Fairy Shrimp
Branchinella spinosa

Small shrimp found in salt lakes or brackish ponds. It is a filter feeder and an important food source for flamingos. During drought it lays fertilised eggs with hard shells which can survive drought for long periods, and they hatch when conditions are suitable.