



Friends of Deer Creek

Nevada City, California
www.friendsofdeercreek.org

Order:

Megaloptera

Family:

CORYDALIDAE

Genera/Species:

NA: 7 gen, 22 spp; CA: 4 gen

Common Name:

Hellgrammites

Taxonomic Characteristics:

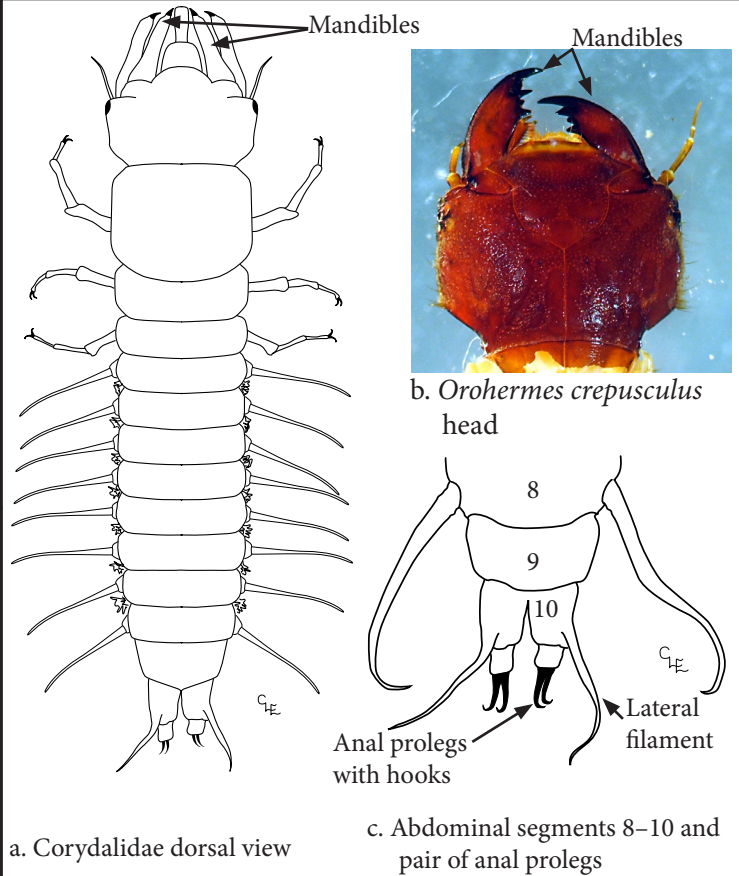
- Body length 25–90 mm
- Elongated **bodies** somewhat flattened (a)
- Large **head** with well-developed toothed mandibles (jaws) (b)
- **Thorax** with thick, hard, sclerotized plates bearing three pairs of segmented **legs**, each with 2 claws (a)
- Soft **abdomen** with eight pairs of 2-segmented **lateral filaments** (short basal segment and long distal segment) (a, b); additional pair on the 10th segment (c)
- **Abdomen** terminates with one pair of anal prolegs each with a pair of hooks (c)

Biological Information:

This family is very sensitive to water pollution and habitat degradation and are associated with cool, highly oxygenated mountain streams.

Tolerance Value: 0

Functional Feeding Group: p



a. Elder; b. McCormick; c. Elder

Taxa Tips! Sometimes small members of this group are confused with Trichoptera because of the lateral filaments and the hooked prolegs. Look for 2 hooks on each proleg in corydalids as opposed to 1 hook per proleg of the Trichoptera. In addition, the corydalid gills are long, robust filaments that project to the side of each segment. Trichoptera gills are more fragile, can be either individual or branched, and are located ventrally or occasionally laterally.

The Gyrinidae (beetle larvae) also have long, pointed gill filaments that project from the sides of each segment. Additionally, there are two pairs of filaments and four terminal hooks on the last segment of the abdomen and no prolegs on the last abdominal segment. Look closely to see if there is one pair of filaments on the last segment and a pair of hooks on each of the two prolegs to make it a corydalid.

Notes: