

Caddisfly Larva Family ID Guide

Limnephilidae (Northern casemaker caddisflies)



Head: look for black stripes



Limnephilis stigma case
Illustration by Phil Wilkins (7607)

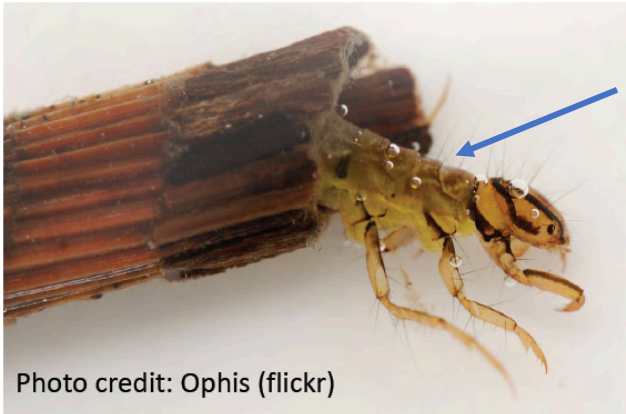


Thorax: Look for a hard plate or a hump above the middle pair of legs.



Case: Look for 'Log cabin' or hedgehog like case, with pieces stacked on top of each other to form in an irregular shape or a disc. Made of chunky pieces of plant material.

Phryganidae (Giant casemaker caddisflies)



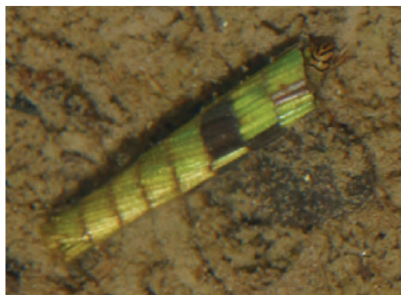
Thorax: Soft. No hard plate above middle pair of legs

Head: look for dark stripes on the top of the head.

Photo credit: Ophis (flickr)



Phryganeta sp. case
Illustration by Phil Wilkins (7607)



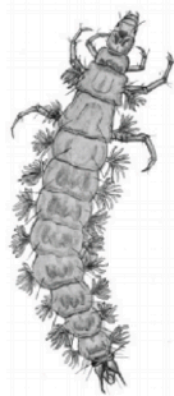
Case: Narrow, tubular, in a spiral pattern. Made from fine pieces of plant fragments. Phryganeidae often leave their cases.

Unidentified caddisflies:

Cases: Caddisflies can have cases or be caseless. *Rhyacophila* are the most common caddisflies without a case. Caddisfly cases in the *Hydroptilidae* family are flattened. *Glossosomatidae* have rounded or arched cases made of sand or small pebbles. *Molannidae* cases completely cover the heads of caddisflies. *Lepidostomatidae* and *Brachycentridae* construct square-tubed cases. Other cases are made only from silk or sand.



Head: The head may be entirely dark, have a single dark spot in the middle, or many small light spots.



Thorax: may be soft or have hard protective plates

Source: Wallace, Ian. The beginners Guide to Caddis (Order Trichoptera), *Journal of Invertebrate Zoology*, National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside, William Brown Street, Liverpool, L3 8EN 2003. Illustrated by Phil Wilkins (7607)