

## PONDLIFE

Pond dips were carried out on April 7, May 26 and June 23; shown here is just a very small sample of the life in the farm's Wildlife Pond. Frogs and newts were also found - see the Amphibians section.

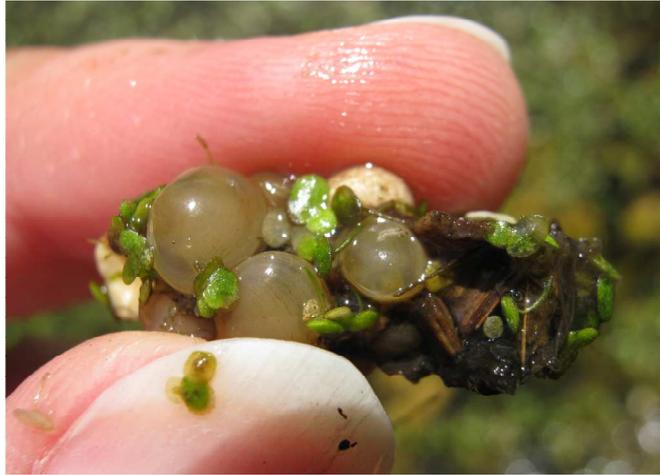
### **CADDIS FLY LARVAE:**

Mainly *Limnephilus* species

Larvae in their cases,  
as found on 7 April.

Caddis fly larvae create a silk sock around their bodies, to which they attach leaves, stones, shells, sticks etc, for camouflage and protection. Different species use different materials in different ways, though it also depends on what is available in the pond.

Caddis fly larvae can only live in clean (unpolluted) water, so the fact that we easily found several specimens, probably of different species, shows that the farm's pond is clean and of good quality.



*This caddis fly larva gives the pond a star for its water quality!*



**MOSQUITO LARVAE AND PUPA:**

(Species unidentified)

Found in pond on both April 7 and May 26.

The pupae are comma-shaped, as in the lower photo. Both the larvae and pupae normally hang from the water's surface.



**HORSE LEECH**

*Haemopsis sanguisuga*

One found on May 26 – this specimen being almost certainly longer than the 15cm quoted for this species. Unlike the similarly-sized Medicinal Leech, the Horse Leech doesn't suck blood but eats smaller pondlife. Its name probably refers to its size rather than any relationship with horses!



**OTHER LEECHES:**

Numerous small leeches, species unidentified.

Found at every pond dip – In April, May and June.



**FLATWORMS:**

Numerous; unidentified species.

Found at every pond dip – In April, May and June.



**WATER SLATER / HOG LOUSE**  
*Asellus aquaticus*

Found in large numbers in the pond on each pond dip, in April, May and June.  
The presumably mating pair in the second photo was found at the end of May.

They are crustaceans, and like aquatic forms of woodlice.



**COPEPODS:**  
*Cyclops species*

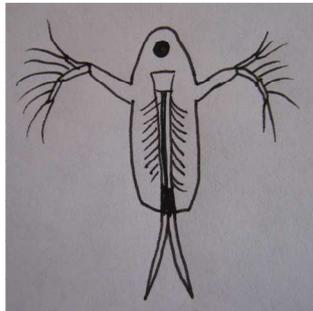
Numerous seen on April 7;  
female with 2 egg sacs  
photographed.

Copepods are small  
crustaceans.



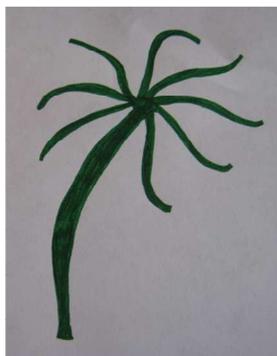
**WATER FLEAS:**  
Various species

Numerous, but too small  
to photograph, hence  
illustration used of one type.  
Water fleas are also  
crustaceans.



**GREEN HYDRA**  
*Hydra viridissima*

Seen under microscope in  
June. A very green, palm-tree  
shaped hydra; can expand  
and contract in length. (Too  
small to photograph, hence  
illustration used).



Thanks to Emma Louise Barnard, Ernie and other Young Farmers and Pond Dippers for their findings.