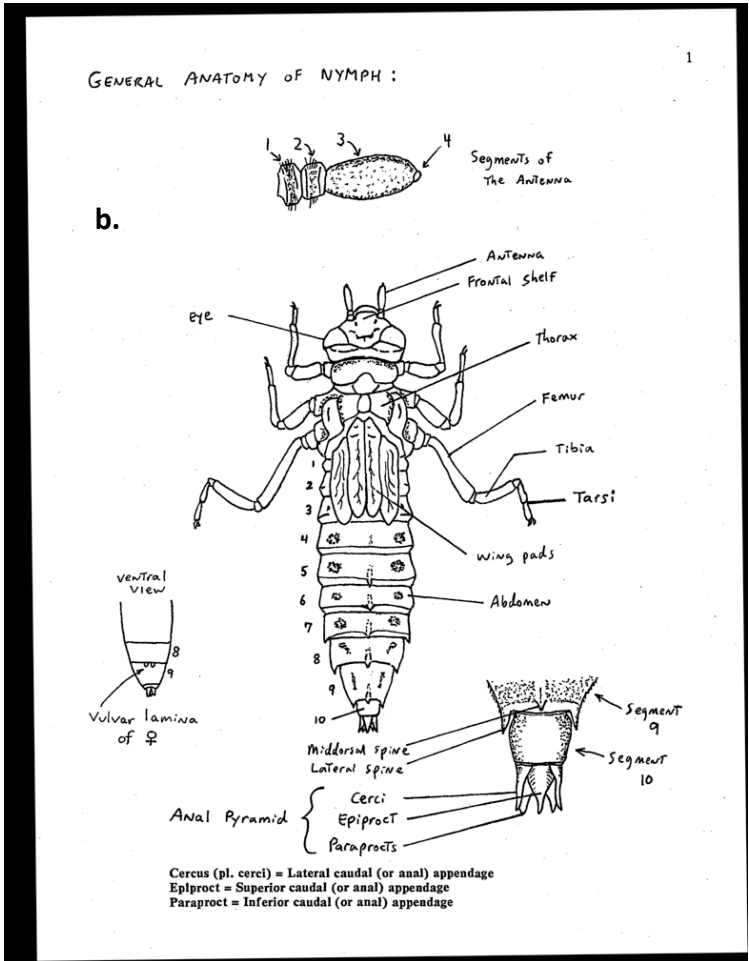
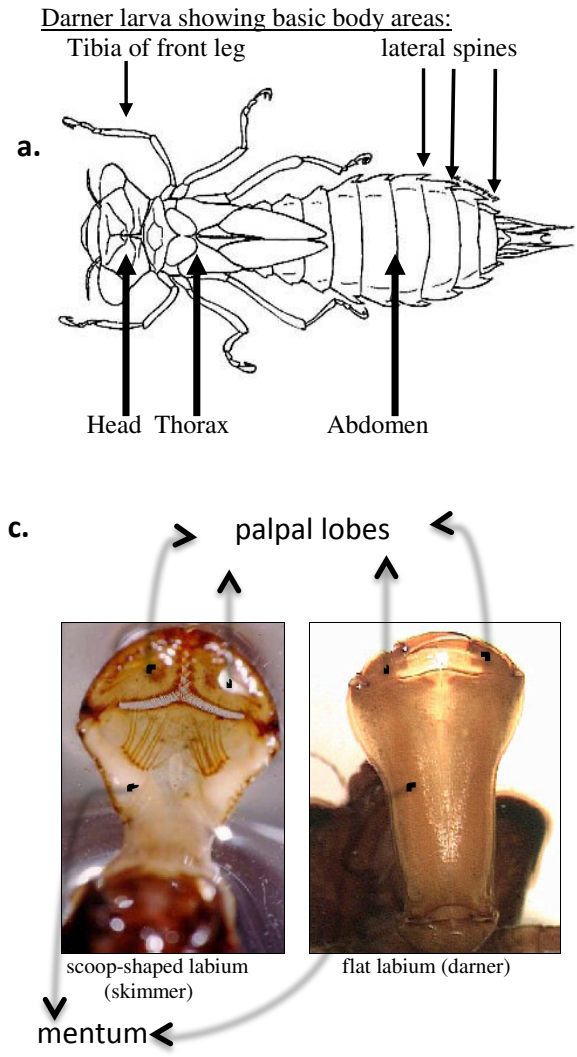
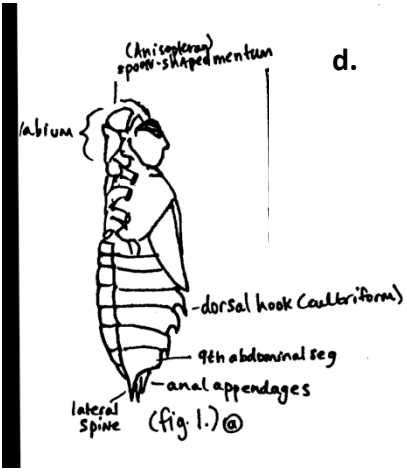


Acadia Learning field guide to dragonfly larva

There are a lot of things to look at on a dragonfly body- familiarize yourself with some of the body part names:



Mouthpart, also called the labium. The labium is made up of two big parts- the mentum and the palpal lobes



a. from: A General Guide to Dragonfly Exuviae, Pamela Hunt, <http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Wildlife/Nongame/dragonflies.html>

b. from: Soltesz, Ken. 1996. Identification Key to Northeastern Anisoptera Larvae, University of Connecticut, CT. www.odene.org/NEAnisopteraSpeciesKey.pdf

c. from: A General Guide to Dragonfly Exuviae, Pamela Hunt, <http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Wildlife/Nongame/dragonflies.html>

d. from: A Genus Key to the Odonate Larvae of the Northeastern United States. 1998. Karen Frolich.

Acadia Learning field guide to dragonfly larva

These are photos of dragonfly exuvia (shells left behind when the dragonflies become adults), your dragonflies will look quite different



Family Aeshnidae:
•large eyes
•long abdomen
flat labium
long thread-like antennae (not shown)



Answer this:
What's the shape of the labium?
Flat?
Aeshnidae or Gomphidae
Spoon, or mask-like?
Cordulegastridae,
Macromiidae, Corduliidae
or Libellulidae

It's got a flat labium...
what about the eyes and antennae?
Big eyes (relatively speaking) and thread-like antennae?
Aeshnidae
Small eyes and stubby antennae?
Gomphidae



Family Gomphidae:
•stubby antennae
•smaller eyes
flat labium



Answer this:
It's got a mask-like labium... what about the palpal lobes?
Really jagged?
Cordulegastridae



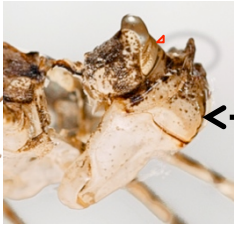
Family Cordulegastridae:
usually stocky
•spoon or mask-like labium and the palpal lobes have very jagged edges



Not too jagged, or look more like a zipper?
Macromiidae,
Corduliidae or
Libellulidae

Does it have a horn?
Macromiidae

No horn?
Corduliidae or
Libellulidae (these two are very confusing)

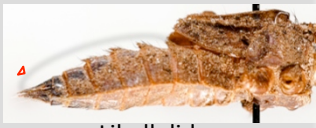


Family Macromiidae:
often flat and coin-shaped.
•spoon or mask-like labium
palpal lobes have very regular edges, and in between the eyes there is a 'horn' (often have very, very long legs)



Families Corduliidae and Libellulidae (hard to tell apart):

They have the spoon-shaped labium, regular edges (also called crenellations) on the palpal lobes but...



Libellulidae



Looking at the abdomen from the side...
Are the things that stick out spiky, rounded, not there? Libellulidae
Hooked? Corduliidae

In Libellulidae the anal pyramid (the very tail end) is long with three long points and two shorter spines. The anal pyramid in Corduliidae is generally short with all five points of equal length.



Corduliidae

