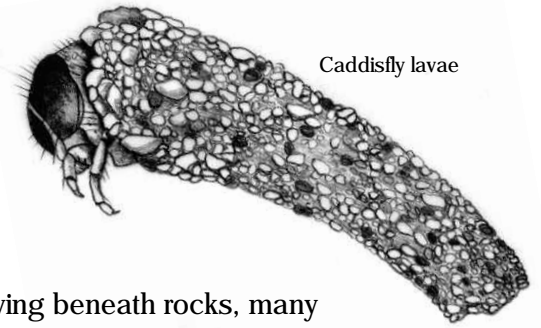


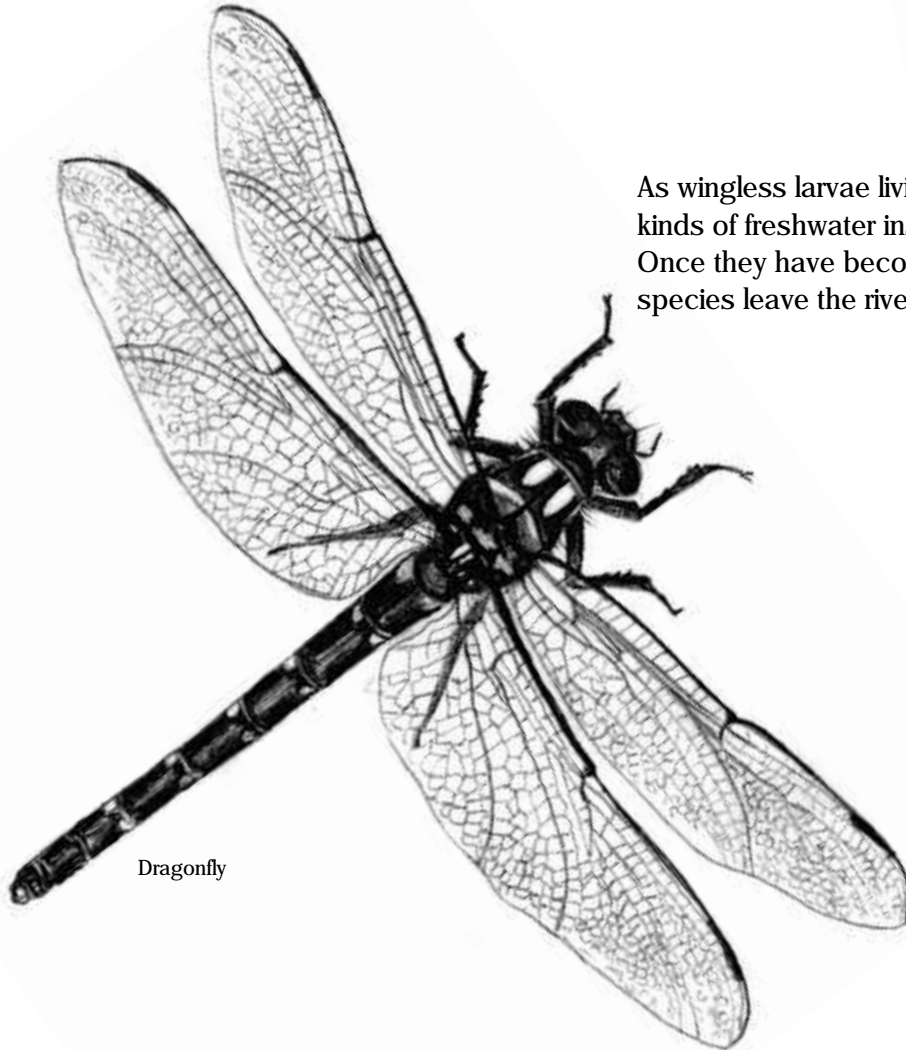
The Tasman River is one of only a few sites where the aquatic caddisfly, *Psilochorema folioharpax*, has been found.

In the wetlands in the basin can be found the spectacular giant mountain and yellow spotted dragonflies.



Caddisfly larvae

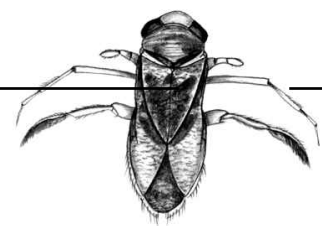
As wingless larvae living beneath rocks, many kinds of freshwater insects inhabit riverbeds. Once they have become adults with wings, most species leave the riverbed and take to the air.



Dragonfly

In the rivers and wetlands of the Upper Waitaki Basin can be found dobsonflies, mayflies, stoneflies, caddisflies, waterboatmen, giant dragonflies, red coat damselflies, and sandflies. These are used as food by both native and introduced fish, and birds.

Waterboatman



Activities

- 1 Draw the life cycle of one of the insect types mentioned above.
- 2 Find out how different kinds of fresh water insects breathe.
- 3 Visit your local river and carefully turn over submerged rocks. Name and describe the insects you see there.
- 4 In groups, research the differences between dobsonflies, mayflies, stoneflies, caddisflies, dragonflies, and sandflies. Draw large pictures of these to put on the wall.
- 5 Find out what adult insects spend their whole life in rivers. Describe the life cycle of one of them.
- 6 Investigate why dragonflies are such excellent fliers.
- 7 Find out what other dragonflies live in New Zealand.
- 8 Describe how a waterboatman swims.
- 9 Design a poster on a fresh water insect to show where it fits into the food web.