

Macroinvertebrate Glossary

- Abdomen** – the most posterior body region, where the appendages do not form legs
- Antenna** – the first pair of appendages in insects, and first two pairs in crustaceans, adapted for feeling and smelling objects in front of the animal
- Anterior** – in the direction of the head; opposite of posterior
- Brachyopterous** – with short or abbreviated wings
- Carapace** – a chitinous or bony shield covering the whole or portions of the head, thorax and abdomen in crustaceans or insects
- Cephalothorax** – the part of the body covered by the carapace; the head and thorax combined
- Cercus** – a paired appendage of the last abdominal segment
- Dorsal** – toward the upper surface when the body is in normal walking position
- Labium** – lower lip; mouthpart lying behind the maxillae
- Meso-** - prefix; pertaining to the middle (e.g., the mesothorax is the middle thoracic segment)
- Meta-** - prefix; pertaining to the last or third in a series (e.g., the metathorax is the last thoracic segment)
- Posterior** – in the direction away from the head; opposite of *anterior*
- Proleg** – any process or appendage that serves for support, locomotion, or attachment; the fleshy, unjointed thoracic or abdominal appendages of larval trichopterans, lepidopterans, and dipterans; may be sclerotized
- Tarsomeres** – segments of the tarsi
- Tarsus** – the fifth (last) segment of an arthropod leg, connected to the tibia (may be composed of several tarsomeres)
- Thorax** – the part of the body between the head and the abdomen
- Tibia** – the fourth segment of an arthropod leg, connected to the femur
- Ventral** - toward the lower surface when the body is in normal walking position: the opposite of dorsal