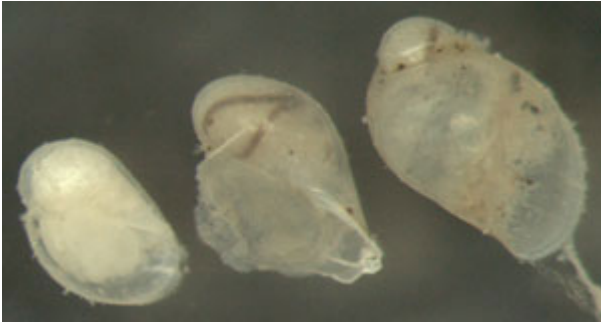


How do I know if I have an immature animal?

There are no absolute rules for identifying the immature animals. Generally immature animals will not key out and knowledge of them comes only from being shown by a more experienced taxonomist. The following common examples are guidelines;

Size – Size increases with age. If the animal is so small that you cannot see many features then it is probably an immature animal.

Gastropoda: Planorbidae



Pigmentation - If the whole animal is very pale and soft then perhaps it is very young (or has just undergone a moult). This will be more obvious in families that develop sclerites or distinctive patterns of pigmentation.

Trichoptera: Ecnomidae



How do I know if I have an immature animal?

Wing development – Lack of wing development indicates immaturity, in particular the Hemiptera and Coleoptera where both adults and juveniles are aquatic.

Hemiptera: Corixidae



Missing features – Certain key features may be missing from immature animals. Usually there is another feature on the animal that will give you an indication as to which group it belongs to.

Trichoptera: Hydropsychidae

Abdominal gills are missing but sclerotization of all thoracic nota is still evident on immature animals.



Odonata

Caudal gills have not developed but the well developed extendable labium is still evident on immature animals.

