Benthic Macroinvertebrate Couplet Key

No shell

shell(s)

1 shell

2 shells

Clams and Mussels (M)

Shell with operculum   Shell without operculum

Snails (M)

legs

more than 6 legs

Looks like a Lobster — Crayfish

Body wider than it is high — Aquatic sowbug

Body higher than it is wide — Sideswimmer

no legs

6 legs

no tails

Very small beetle, crawls on bottom — Riffle beetle (adult)

Grub-like, body covered in plates — Riffle beetle (larva)

Round, penny like shape — Water penny

Large eyes, oval abdomen — Dragonfly (M)

Body in or attached to a case — Casebuilding caddisfly (M)

tails

spines on sides

Hooked tail, gills under the filaments

Hooked tail, no gills under the filaments

Hellgrammite/Fishfly

no spines on side

No gills under the filaments, single tapered tail — Alderfly
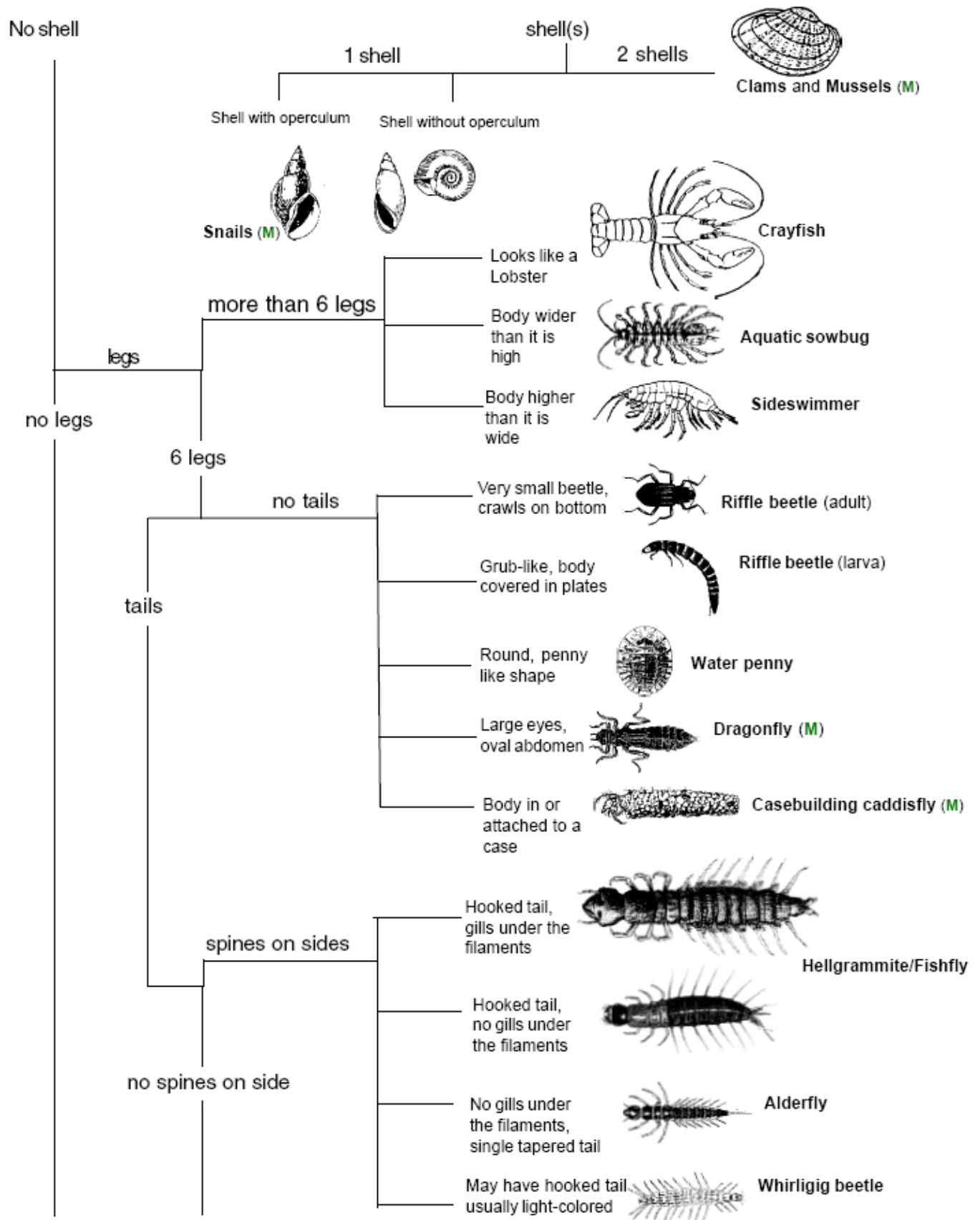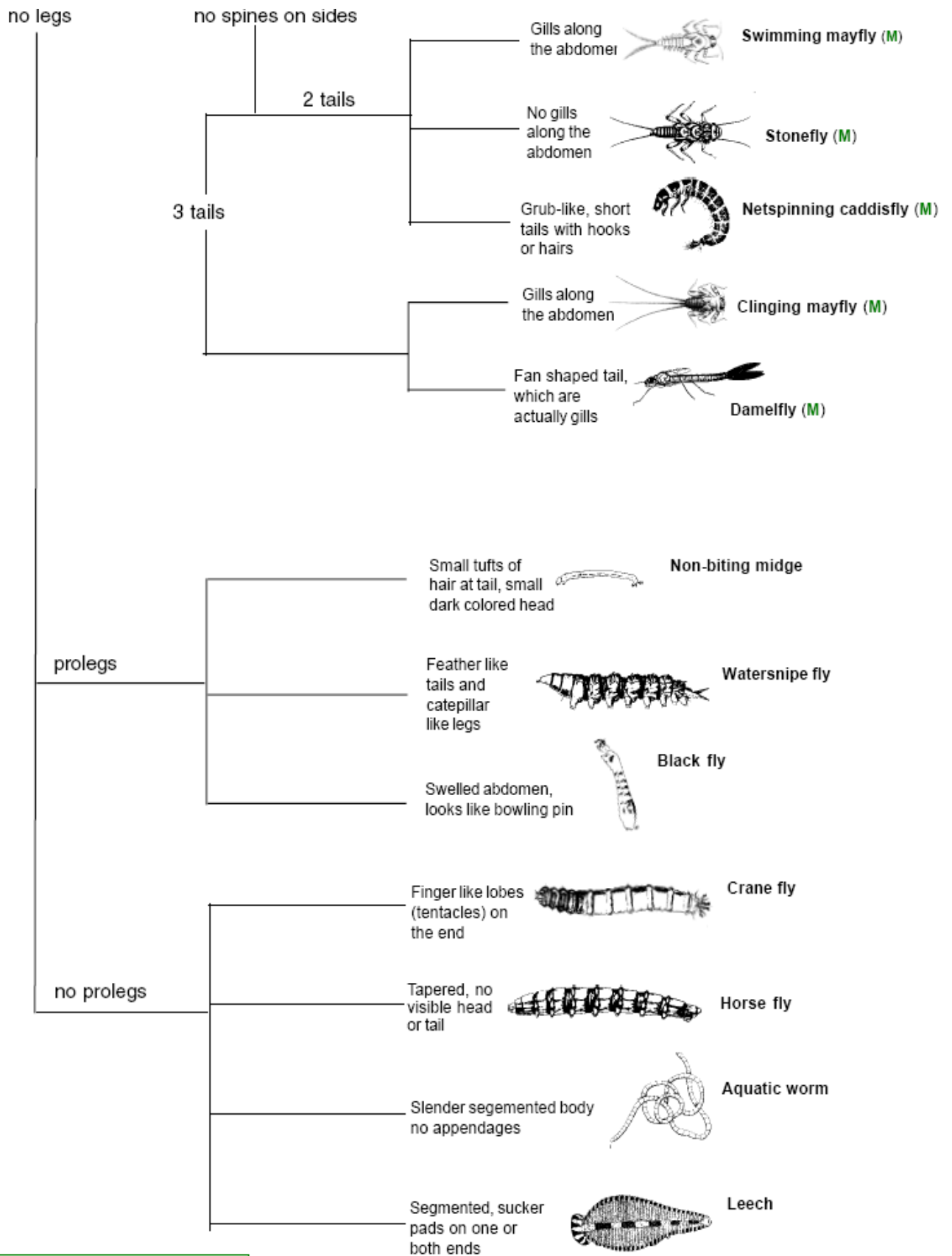
May have hooked tail, usually light-colored — Whirligig beetle

Continued on the next page

The (M) symbol indicates that multiple kinds are possible

1

<u>Benthic Macroinvertebrate Couplet Key</u>

no legs   no spines on sides

Gills along the abdomen — **Swimming mayfly (M)**

2 tails

No gills along the abdomen — **Stonefly (M)**

3 tails

Grub-like, short tails with hooks or hairs — **Netspinning caddisfly (M)**

Gills along the abdomen — **Clinging mayfly (M)**

Fan shaped tail, which are actually gills — **Damelfly (M)**

prolegs

Small tufts of hair at tail, small dark colored head — **Non-biting midge**

Feather like tails and catepillar like legs — **Watersnipe fly**

Black fly

Swelled abdomen, looks like bowling pin

no prolegs

Finger like lobes (tentacles) on the end — **Crane fly**

Tapered, no visible head or tail — **Horse fly**

Slender segemented body no appendages — **Aquatic worm**

Segmented, sucker pads on one or both ends — **Leech**

The (M) symbol indicates that multiple kinds are possible

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