



How to use the miniSASS toolkit



STEP 1: SAMPLING FOR ROCKY HABITAT

- Shuffle your feet and kick the bigger rocks inside the water.
- As you do this your net should be placed in front of you, to catch anything that has knocked off the rocks.
- As you sample in this habitat ensure that you are not standing in the way of anything that would flow into the net.

STEP 2: SAMPLING FOR GRAVEL, SAND AND MUD (GSM) HABITAT

- Wiggle your feet into the mud and make the sand and mud float into the water.
- Sweep and scoop up the net through the dirty and muddy water; careful not to get too much mud and sand in the net.

STEP 3: SAMPLING FOR VEGETATIVE HABITAT

Choose patches of plants that are different from each other to sample. Push your net under your vegetation and scoop it up in a circular motion, splashing and catching the water under your net.

Sampling of the 3 all different habitats should take 5 mins in total.

STEP 4-6: IDENTIFYING MACROINVERTEBRAE

Using the key to identify macroinvertebrae

- On the score sheet (image 5), circle the sensitivity scores of the identified organisms).
- Add up all of the sensitivity scores.
- Divide the total of the sensitivity scores by the number of groups identified.
- The result is **the average score**, which can be interpreted using the ecological condition table (image 6).

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1



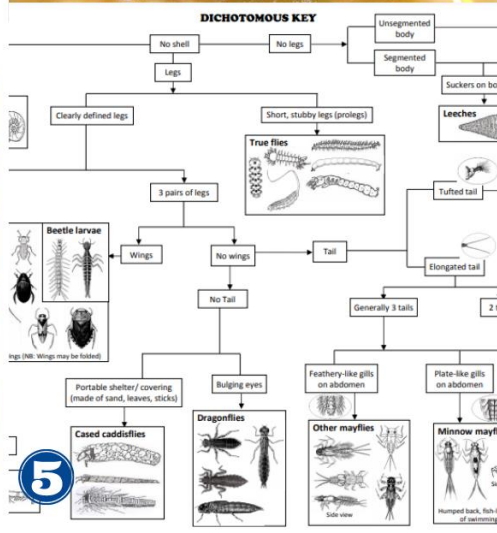
2
















3



4



5

miniSASS ILLUSTRATIONS & SCORE SHEET		SENSITIVITY SCORE
Flat worms		3
Worms		2
Leeches		2
Crabs or shrimps		6
Stoneflies		17
Minnow Mayflies		5
Other Mayflies		11
Damselflies		4
Dragonflies		6
Bugs or beetles		5
Caddisflies (cased & uncased)		9
True Slugs		2
Slugs		4
TOTAL SCORE		

6