



Thank you for your interest in helping the University of Maine collect caddisfly larvae data!

These surveys are a portion of my Senior Honor's thesis. The project is a response, in part, to the lack of information on Maine larval caddisfly predation of amphibian embryos, an interaction observed by many vernal pool surveyors. Because the thesis is due right around the time of salamander emergence, I will not be able to perform any field experiments. Instead, I am coordinating these caddisfly larvae surveys and designing a lab and field experiment on the effects of predaceous caddisfly larvae in vernal pools that may be implemented by another student next year.

In order to gain a better understanding of caddisfly larvae distribution in Maine, I am asking consultants (and anyone else who will be conducting spring vernal pool surveys) to fill out a short survey form. The 1-page form includes data that the surveyor will most likely already be recording (such as pool location, size, surrounding habitat, and the number of wood frog and spotted salamander egg masses) and a few questions on the number of caddisfly larvae observed in the pool/on the egg masses. I did my best to design the survey so that it should not take too much additional time to fill out. I am also asking surveyors to include a sample of the types of caddisfly larvae ("log-cabin" or "cigartube") they observe in small vials of 95% ethyl alcohol that I will be distributing along with the survey forms. The labels on the vials should be filled out entirely in **pencil** and put in the vial along with the larvae sample. When filling out the 'location' field on the survey form and vial label, GPS locations are preferred. However, if the surveyor cannot specify GPS, town/township or even county will be fine, too.

The forms and caddisfly larvae samples should be returned, preferably by the fall of 2009, to:
Amanda Shearin
Department of Wildlife Ecology
210 Nutting Hall
Orono, ME 04669.

If you are unable to mail or hand-deliver the surveys and vials, e-mail Amanda Shearin and she may be able to pick them up. The data received will be analyzed by Amanda Shearin or another student who is willing to take on the project. We hope to get a better understanding of the factors that affect vernal pool caddisfly larvae distribution in Maine, as well as where larval predation of amphibian egg masses is the most intense.

Any questions can be directed to Lindsay Keener-Eck (lindsay.keenereck@umit.maine.edu) or Amanda Shearin (amanda.shearin@umit.maine.edu).



Photo taken by Lee Burman