

## Macroinvertebrate Glossary

### A

- Abdomen:** the third main division of the body; behind the head and *thorax*  
**Accessory flagellum:** a small fingerlike projection or subantenna of the antenna, especially of amphipods  
**Anterior:** in front; before  
**Apical:** near or pertaining to the end of any structure, part of the structure that is farthest from the body; distal  
**Apicolateral:** located *apical* and to the side

### B

- Basal:** pertaining to the end of any structure that is nearest to the body; proximal  
**Bilobed:** divided into two rounded parts (lobes)

### C

- Calcareous:** resembling chalk or bone in texture; containing calcium  
**Carapace:** the hardened part of some arthropods that spreads like a shield over several segments of the head and *thorax*  
**Carinae:** elevated ridges or keels, often on a shell or exoskeleton  
**Caudal filament:** threadlike projection at the end of the abdomen; like a tail  
**Cercus (pl. cerci):** a paired appendage of the last abdominal segment  
**Concentric:** a growth pattern on the opercula of some gastropods, marked by a series of circles that lie entirely within each other; compare multispiral and paucispiral  
**Corneus:** resembling horn in texture, slightly hardened but still pliable  
**Coxa:** the basal segment of an arthropod leg  
**Creeping welt:** a slightly raised, often darkened structure on dipteran larvae  
**Crochet:** a small hook like organ  
**Cupule:** a cup shaped organ, as on the antennae of some beetles (Coleoptera)

### D

- Detritus:** disintegrated or broken up mineral or organic material  
**Dextral:** the curvature of a gastropod shell where the opening is visible on the right when the spire is pointed up  
**Distal:** near or toward the free end of any appendage; that part farthest from the body; apical  
**Dorsal:** pertaining to, or situated on the back or top, especially of the thorax and abdomen  
**Dorsolateral:** toward the top and side

### E

- Elytra:** hardened shell-like mesothoracic wings of adult beetles (Coleoptera)

### F

- Femur:** the leg section between the tibia and coxa of Arthropoda, comparable to an upper arm or thigh  
**Flagellum:** a small fingerlike or whip like projection  
**Furcula:** the forked springtail of Collembola

### G

- Gill:** any structure especially adapted for the exchange of dissolved gases between animal and a surrounding liquid  
**Glossae:** a lobe or lobes front and center on the labium; in Plecoptera, the lobes are between the paraglossae

### H

- Hemelytra:** the leathery mesothoracic wings of some Hemiptera

### L

- Labium:** a lower mouthpart of an arthropod like a jaw or lip  
**Labrum:** an upper mouthpart of an arthropod consisting of a single usually hinged plate above the mandibles  
**Lateral:** feature or marking located on the side of a body or other structure  
**Lateral teeth:** ridges on the inside edge of a bivalve shell, near the hinge and to the sides of the beak  
**Ligula:** forming the ventral wall of an arthropod's oral cavity; the "lower lip"  
**Lobe:** a rounded projection or protuberance

### M

- Mandibles:** the first pair of jaws in insects  
**Maxillae:** the second pair of jaws in insects  
**Mesocoxae:** the basal segments of the middle legs  
**Mesonotum:** the dorsal surface of the *mesothorax*  
**Mesotarsi:** the *tarsus* of the middle legs  
**Mesothorax:** the second or middle section of the thorax bearing the middle legs  
**Metathorax:** the third or hind section of the thorax bearing the hind legs  
**Metatibiae:** hind *tibia*  
**Molar lobe:** the ridged or roughened grinding surface of the *mandible*

## Macroinvertebrate Glossary

**Multi spiral:** a growth pattern on the opercula of some gastropods marked by several turns from the center to the edge; compare paucispiral and concentric

### N

**Notum:** the dorsal surface of any thoracic segment

### O

**Operculate:** having a lid or cover

**Operculum:** a lid or covering structure, like a door to an opening

### P

**Palpal lobes:** the grasping pinchers at the end of the Odonata lower jaw

**Palpus (pl. palpi):** tactile, usually segmented structure on the *maxillae* and *labium*

**Papillae:** fleshy protuberances

**Paraglossa (pl. paraglossae) :** lateral lobe of the *labium*

**Paucispiral:** a growth pattern on the opercula of some gastropods marked by few turns from the center to the edge; compare multispiral and concentric

**Periphyton:** algae and associated organisms that live attached to underwater surfaces

**Procoxae:** the basal segments of the front legs

**Posterior:** behind; opposite of anterior

**Prementum:** distal portion of the lower jaw of an Odonata

**Proleg:** any projection appendage that serves for support locomotion or attachment

**Pronotum:** the upper or top part of the *prothorax*

**Protarsus (pl. protarsi):** front foot; occurring on legs arising from first thoracic segment

**Prostheca:** a *mandibular sclerite* set with hair

**Prothorax:** the first *thoracic* segment closest to the head

**Protibia (pl. protibiae):** tibia of the foreleg

**Protrochantin:** on the front leg, a small, forward projecting sclerite on the trochanter (the segment between the coxa and femur)

### R

**Rostrum:** a beak or beaklike mouthpart

### S

**Sclerite:** a hardened area of an insect body wall, usually surrounded by softer membranes

**Scutellum:** in adult coleopterans and Hemiptera, the triangular sclerite between the bases of the *elytra* or *hemelytra*

**Seta (pl. setae):** hair like projection

**Sinistral:** the curvature of a gastropod shell where the opening is seen on the left when the spire is pointed up

**Spiracle:** an opening to the internal respiratory system usually at the sides or end of the abdomen of insects

**Sternum (pl. sterna):** the entire *ventral* portion of a thoracic or abdominal segment

### T

**Tarsus (pl. tarsi):** the leg segment or segments at the apex of the *tibia* usually bearing a claw

**Telson:** the most *posterior* segment of a crustacean

**Thoracic:** of or pertaining to the *thorax*

**Thorax:** middle portion of the body between the head and abdomen, consisting of three segments (prothorax, mesothorax, and metathorax), each of which bears a pair of articulated legs

**Tibia:** the segment of an arthropod leg, between the femur and tarsus, comparable to a shin or forearm of human anatomy

**Tubercles:** small bumps or pimple like structures

### V

**Ventral:** toward the lower surface when the body is in normal walking position; opposite of *dorsal*

**Verrucae:** wart like elevations bearing several too many *setae* pointing in different directions

**Ventrolateral:** on the lower surface and to one side of the midline

### W

**Wingpads:** the developing wing of an immature insect