

Caddisfly larva

Limnephilus lunatus

Insects · Larvae all year · adults Jun–Oct



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The larva of a medium-sized brown caddisfly, best known not for itself but for its case — a tube it constructs from grains of sand, plant fragments, twigs and small shells, bound with silk and carried about as it walks. Caddis larvae are abundant in ponds, ditches, canals and slow reaches around Dumfries, and are one of the most rewarding things to find in a pond-dipping tray.

BEHAVIOUR

Each caddis species builds a characteristic case, so the case itself identifies the larva. The construction is instinctive and adaptable — larvae given only glass beads or gemstones will build with those, which has been turned into a minor art form. Larvae graze algae and detritus, pupate inside the sealed case, and emerge as drab moth-like adults that fly at night.

WHEN TO SEE IT

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QUICK FACTS

FAMILY	Northern caddisflies (Limnephilidae)
SIZE	Larval case 15–25 mm
STATUS	Native; abundant in still and slow fresh water

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