

River Detectives

Macro Invertebrates 2019 Report

The Ovens River, King River and One Mile Creek were all visited this year. We collected water bugs and used their sensitivity to find out more about the water way. This report will focus on the Ovens River.

Ovens River:

At the Ovens River we collected many bugs including Cased caddis larvae, Mayfly nymphs, Stonefly nymphs, Glass shrimps, Pogs, many Water boatman and more. Each bug has a sensitivity reading. The higher the reading the more sensitive the bug is to the pollution in the water. The numbers below are the sensitivity reading 8-10 being very sensitive, 5-7 sensitive, 3-4 moderate and 1-2 tolerant.

Autumn/Winter

15/5/19

Cased Caddis Larvae: 8 Mayfly Nymphs: 9 Chironomids, Blood Worms:4 Glass Shrimp:2
Worms: 2

3/6/19

Cased caddis larvae score: 8 Mayfly nymphs score: 9 Black Fly Larvae: 5
Chironomids, Blood Worms:4 Backswimmers:1 Flatworms: 2 Water Tigers: 2 Water
Boatman: 2 Worms: 2

Spring

The Ovens River was visited during November. We collected more macro invertebrates and found some species we hadn't found yet such as Mayfly Nymphs which are very sensitive. On the 13/11/19 we also collected some Fishing Spiders that were sensitive, Damselfly Larvae were tolerant. On the 20/11/19 we found Free-Living Caddis Larvae were sensitive to the water and the Cased Caddis Larvae was found before but was very rare to find. On our last visit to the river we found Pogs that were tolerant.

It was a good sign that we found sensitive bugs at the Ovens River. However when we put our data into the website it still said "Overall pollution was moderate to severe." Our Chemical water tests at the site had readings of very good - excellent. We think that our inexperience at collecting macroinvertebrates and short a time frame to sample for bugs might have affected our results.

By Hayley