



Rare Animals of Louisiana

Purse Casemaker Caddisfly *Hydroptila ouachita*

Rarity Rank: S1/ G1

No photo available.

Identification:

- Brown coloration, short antennae (28 segments), species identified through characteristics of the male genitalia;
- Very hairy, thorax has no warts.
- Caddisflies are slender, elongated insects; 4-winged, holds together over body like a roof; long, slender legs.
- Larvae: Similar to a caterpillar.

Measurements:

- 2.5 mm in length.

Taxonomic comments:

- No recognized subspecies.

Habitat:

- Small artesian springs.

Food habits:

- Some species of caddisfly larvae eat only plant materials while others are predators.

Reproduction:

- Larval case is purse-shaped with both ends open.
- When ready to hatch, the larvae attach their cases to the underside of stones and use their mandibles to cut their way out.
- Pupae then crawl out of the water and molt to become adults.

Threats:

- Degradation of water quality can have a huge impact on the ability of these species to survive.

Beneficial Management Practices:

- Prevent erosion and siltation
- Follow Best Management Practices for Streamside Management Zones, possibly increasing width.
- Prevent vehicular traffic across streams



Rare Animals of Louisiana

U. S. Range: LA, TX

References:

Borror, D.J., and R.E. White. 1970. A field guide to insects of America and north of Mexico. Houghton Mifflin Company, New York, N.Y.

Holzenthal, R.W., and R.W. Kelley. 1983. New micro-caddisflies from the southeastern United States (Trichoptera: Hydroptilidae). Florida Entomologist 66:464-469.

NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. 2002. Version 1.6. Arlington, Virginia, USA: NatureServe. Available: <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>. (Accessed: June 19, 2003).

