Short Course Details: Small Streams Characterisation System	Internal
Practical Task: Identification of Macro-Invertebrates	*By*
This checklist is designed to aid assessment of the practical tasks relating to the identification and counting of stream macro-invertebrates. Details of the numbers of types identified may be recorded in the Comments column. It is recognised that the form may require modification to suit the specific site conditions experienced during its use. Any changes made should be recorded in the comments box.	*Date*
	Verification

Candidate's name:	Date of observation:	Assessor:

Skills / activities observed:	√	Comments
Group 1 Invertebrates (Mayfly nymphs) are correctly identified		
Group 2 Invertebrates (Stonefly nymphs) are correctly identified		
Group 3 Invertebrates (Caddis fly nymphs) are correctly identified		
Group 4 Invertebrates (Gold+) are correctly identified		
An identification key is correctly used to identify a minimum of 2 organisms and the key used and key route followed correctly recorded.		
The abundance of the organisms identified is carried out accurately		
Identifications made and their abundance are accurately entered into the field sheets		
Completed field sheets are submitted		

Devised by

Date

Knowledge and understanding apparent from this observation	√	Comments

Observer's Comments

I confirm that the candidate's performance was satisfactory:

Assessor's signature: Date:

Candidate's signature: Date:

Devised by
Date

Most of the knowledge evidence for this activity will be demonstrated in the practical identification exercise.

If, however, there is insufficient evidence of the candidate's knowledge and understanding of macro-invertebrate identification from their practical activities, oral questioning may be used to supplement this. This is best done during the identification process and should relate to the organism s being identified at the time.

Examples of the types of question and expected answers are given below.

Question
What main body features do you use to help identify the Mayfly / Stonefly / Caddis group?

Tail number and length. Stonefly nymphs having two long tails and Mayfly nymphs three long tails. Free living caddis have shorter tails with hooks. Cased caddis can be distinguished by the cases they build. Gill and leg structure can also be used.

Question
What other (non-morphological / structural) characteristics can be used to help distinguish the groups or types of organism in the sample?

Behavioural characteristics such as swimming and walking.
Colour

Question
What behavioural characteristics can be used to distinguish flat worms from leeches?

Flatworms glide along the sample tray whereas leeches have a characteristic looping caterpillar like motion.

Question
What structural and behavioural features can be used to help identify Simulium (the larvae of the Blackfly)?

Its dumbbell shape and tendency to attach itself to the tray base and sides.

Question
What structures can be useful to help distinguish different snail types?

Shell shape and size. Shell spiral pattern. Presence or absence of opercular "lid" to close off shell

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Date