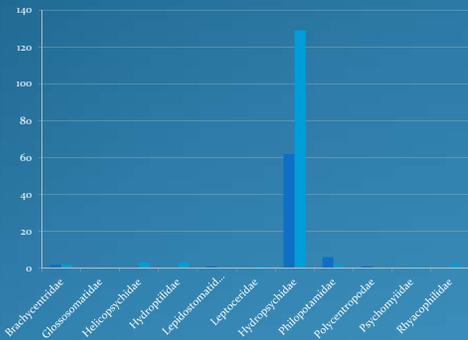


We're not in Kansas Anymore



South Branch of the Waits River Caddisfly Population before and after a storm on September 25, 2012



+ "Toto, I've a feeling we're not in the South Branch anymore. We must be over the riffle!" One caddisfly said to his friend. There had been a large storm that had lifted them, and their homes, away down stream. They landed in a new land. Little Diptera larvae came out from their hiding places to sing.



Rachel Emerson gathering macroinvertebrates.

Hypothesis: After a large storm, it will take longer for caddisflies to repopulate.

To support our hypothesis we looked at our streams data. We wanted to see which caddisflies were here before our streams, and then we looked at the numbers of the same caddisflies after our storm. We did this for both streams. We looked at variables that would affect our data, for example, whether or not the caddisflies made cases.

Results: We found that the case makers did not repopulate as fast as the ones that do not make cases. This could be because the storm washed away the things they make homes out of. Non case makers came back better then before the storm. This could be because the storm cleaned out the streams and so all the pollutants from before were washed away. The storm could have made a better habitat for them.

Conclusion: Our hypothesis was partially supported by our data. Some of the caddisflies came back stronger than before the storm.

Revised Hypothesis: After a large storm, it takes most caddisflies little to no time to repopulate.

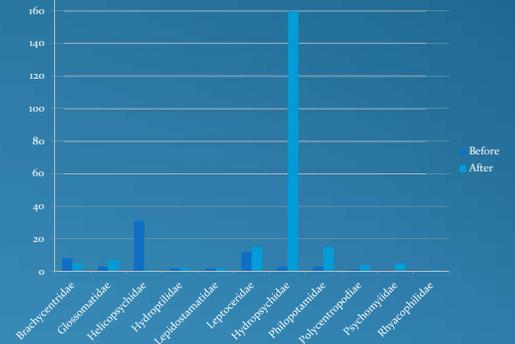
Future Possibilities

Due to the storms knocking out some caddisflies, other insects might be thrown off. If Vermont does end up getting more large storms frequently, other species might be affected.

However, the remaining caddisflies might adapt to these new conditions. They could learn to make new homes, or eat different things to help them survive.



Waits River Caddisflies before and After the Storm on September



Trichoptera

Philopotamidae



Polycentropodidae



Hydropsychidae



Brachycentridae



Leptoceridae



Glossosomatidae



WORK CITED:
 Saint Michaels College. "Macroinvertebrates of Vermont Rivers." *Macroinvertebrates of Vermont Rivers*. Vermont EPSCoR and The National Science Foundation, 2008. Web. 28 Mar. 2012.
http://academics.smccvt.edu/Vermont_streams/

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