

# AQUATIC ENTOMOLOGY

Course Number: BIO 563/663

Credit Hours: 4

Spring, odd numbered years

Aquatic insects comprise about 90% of the invertebrate life in flowing water systems and are extremely abundant in ponds lakes, reservoirs, and wetlands. As such, they are a principal intermediate between primary production and fish and account for much of the carbon and nutrient cycling. Aquatic insect populations and distributions form the base for environmental assessment of polluted systems. For these reasons, Aquatic Entomology is among the core courses at more than 100 universities offering strong programs in basic and applied aquatics and fisheries.

Aquatic Entomology is best taught during the Winter or Spring semesters because a large portion of the taxa are most active in late winter months when nutrient and organic matter supplies are at their peak. The course provides an understanding of ecology, life history, taxonomy and systematics of lotic and lentic aquatic insects. Lectures focus on the ecology and natural history of the aquatic stages with emphasis on Kentucky and Eastern North American taxa. Particular topics include behavior, predator-prey interactions, production, cycling of nutrients, and relationships to environmental pollution.

