Aquatic invertebrate diversity at two wetlands
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Preliminary observations at Main Pond suggested that the abundance and diversity of aquatic organisms was high. To assess this possibility, I collected specimens with a standardized dipnetting procedure for animals at Main Pond (northwest edge and east end) and Mosquito Pond. Animals over a millimeter were taken back to the lab and identified with Bouchard’s *Guide to Aquatic Invertebrates of the Upper Midwest* and Pennak’s *Fresh-Water Invertebrates of the Upper Midwest*. I found members of 21 taxa: Anisoptera, Zygoptera, Dytiscidae, Elmidae, Hydrophilidae, Haliplidae, Belostomatidae, Notonectidae, Corixidae, Ephemeroptera, Chironomidae, Stratiomyidae, other Diptera, Isopoda, Ostracoda, Lymnaeidae, Planorbidae, Physidae, Sphaeriidae, Oligochaeta, and Hirudinea. Gastropods (lymnaeids, planorbids, and physids), odonates (anisopterans and zygopterans), notonectids, and isopods were the most abundant groups. Some taxa were represented by low numbers of individuals, either because they were difficult to collect and/or keep (especially chironmids and isopods), or in the case of the odonates large numbers of them reached adulthood and left the water before I could collect them. An interesting trend I noticed is that all species are considered tolerant of at least moderate levels of pollution and some (notably the gastropods, oligochaetes, and chironmids) are indicators of low levels of oxygen in the water. However, the conclusion that Main Pond is somewhat polluted and poorly oxygenated is tentative and requires further verification.