

Ephemeroptera

MAYFLIES/LALAT SEHARI

Ephemeroptera is one order in Class Insecta which has special character. The common name for insect from this order are mayflies/lalat sehari. Development of mayflies is hemimetabolous: eggs, immature stages, subimago and imago. Not every individual completed its complete stages. Some of them only emerge as subimago then died. The long life of mayflies imago is not more than 24 hours. In that 24 hours, they use their energy for mating and reproduction. Mayflies lays their eggs on the water surface. Nymphs have 12-45 aquatic instars with fully development mandibulate mouthparts.



Adult of Mayfly. (credit: Badrus Ent13)

MORPHOLOGY

Small to large, winged with large triangular. Fore wings and smaller hind wings, mouthparts reduced, compound eyes large, short filiform antennae, abdomen slender compared to stout thorax, with three "tails" (paired cerci often as long as median caudal appendage); immature stages (nymphs) aquatic, with three "tails" and lateral abdominal gills; penultimate instar a winged subimago .

ADVANTAGES

Mayflies requires specific habitat condition environment. That is why some ecologist often studied the mayflies species to determine water quality in one area. Recently, we rarely find mayflies in some of the urban area in Indonesia. This insects are mostly found in some hills, waterfalls, and mountain area which still have a good water quality(Dk).

REFERENCES

Gullan PJ and Cranston PS. 2010. The Isects: Fourth Edition. An Outline of Entomology. John Wiley and son Publisher. USA