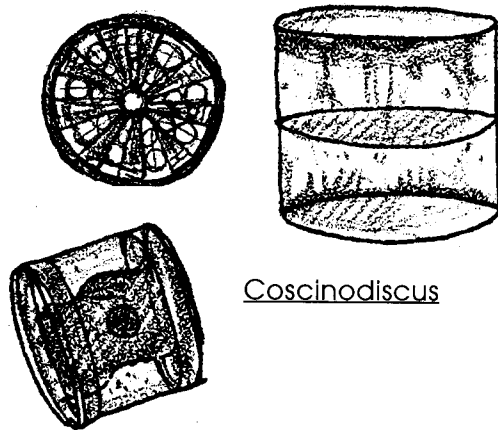


Phytoplankton — Plankton Identification Sheet

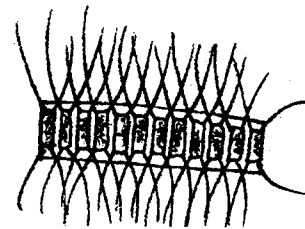
Phytoplankton, or plant plankton, contain the same pigments as land plants so they will appear green or gold. They use the energy in sunlight to power photosynthesis, the creation of sugars from water and CO₂.

All the phytoplankton shown on this page are **diatoms**. Diatoms are microscopic, floating, golden-brown algae.

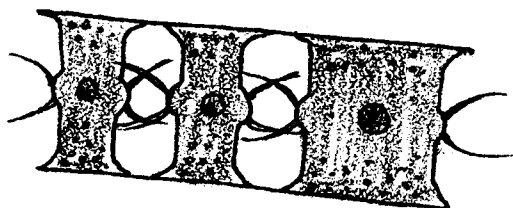
Diatoms have a silica case with two parts that fit together like a pill box or capsule. Some are single cells, such as Coscinodiscus, while others grow in chains or colonies, such as Chaetoceros.



Coscinodiscus



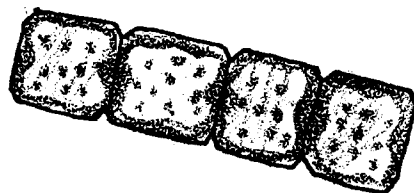
Chaetoceros



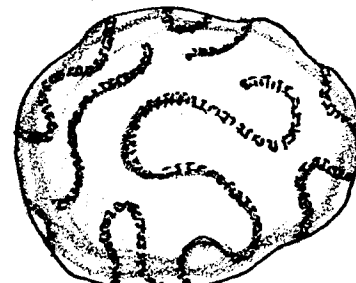
Biddulphia



Chaetoceros debilis



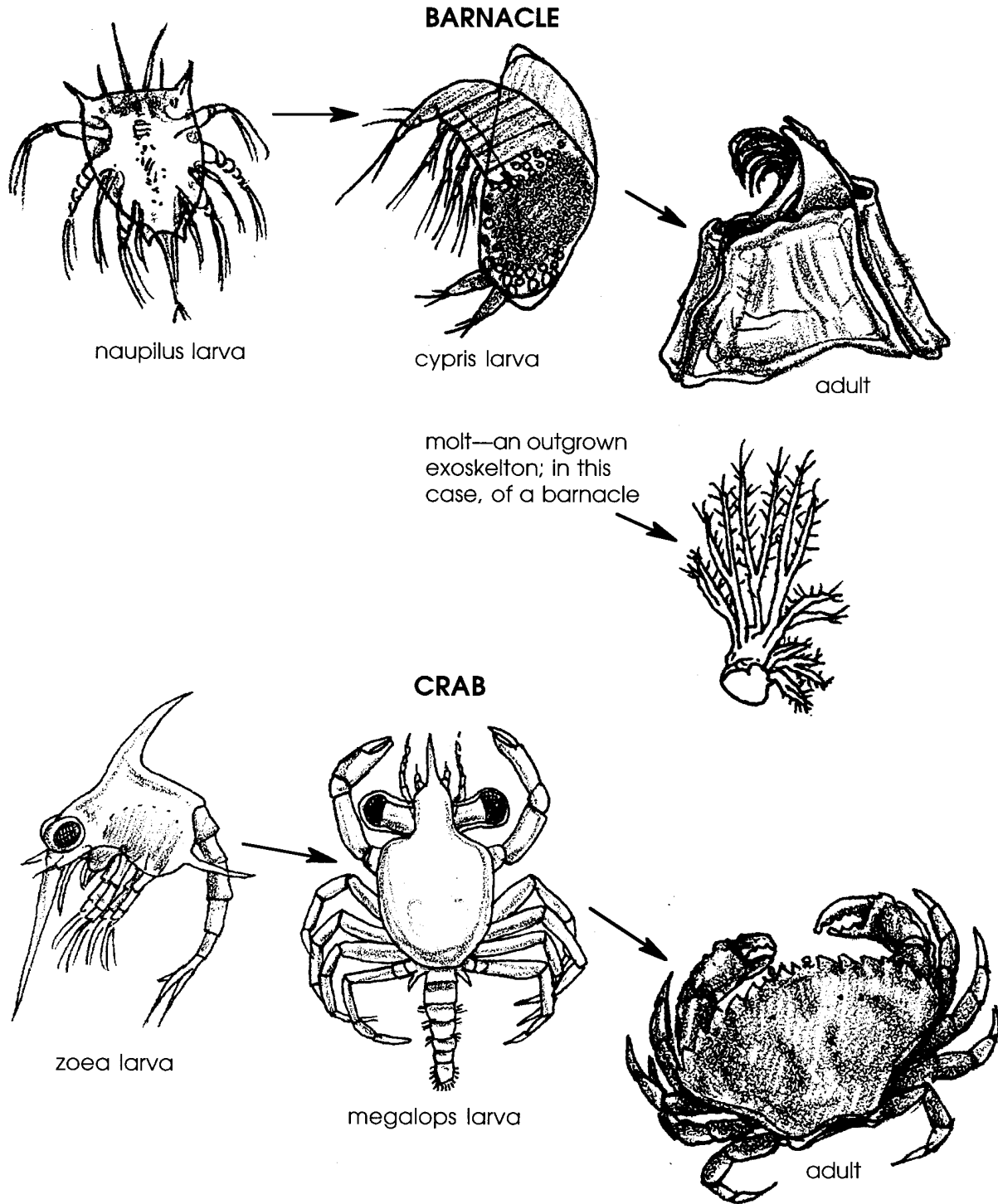
Lauderia borealis



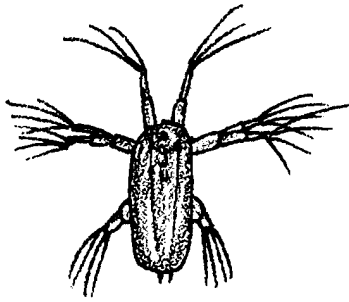
Chaetoceros socialis

Zooplankton — Plankton Identification Sheet

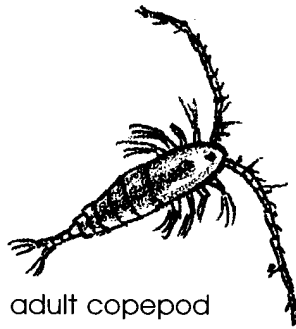
Zooplankton, or animal plankton, are transparent. They eat phytoplankton or each other. Most are active, moving legs, antennae, cilia, or tails.



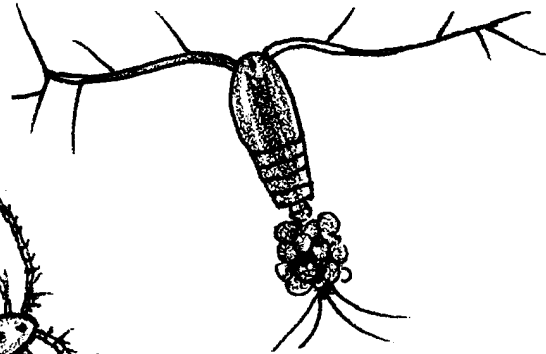
Zooplankton — Plankton Identification Sheet



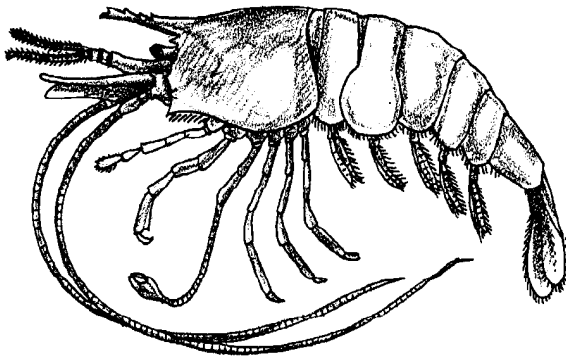
larval copepod



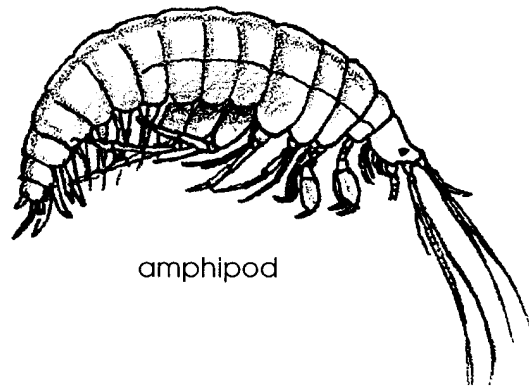
adult copepod



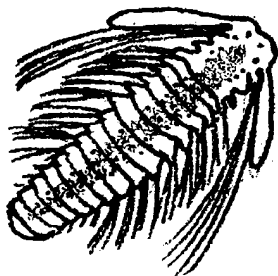
copepod with eggs



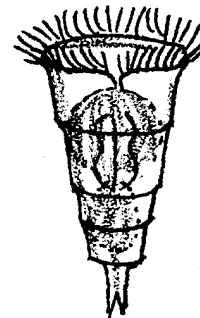
shrimp



amphipod

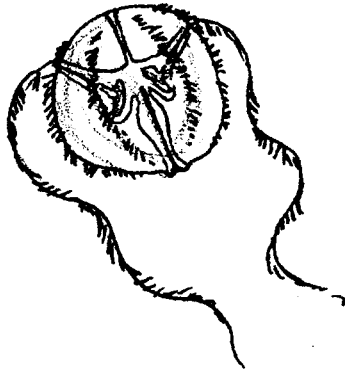


larval polychaete worm

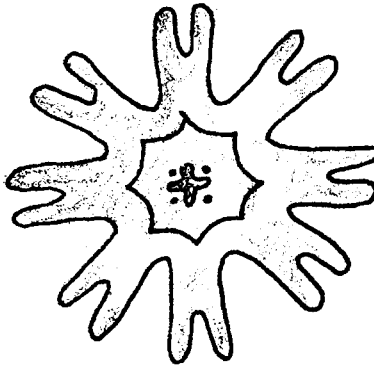


rotifer

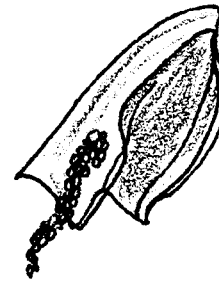
Zooplankton — Plankton Identification Sheet



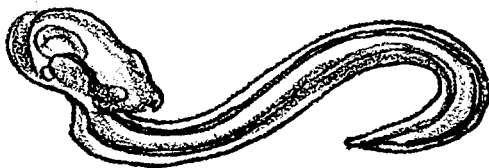
ctenophore (comb jelly)



larval hydroid

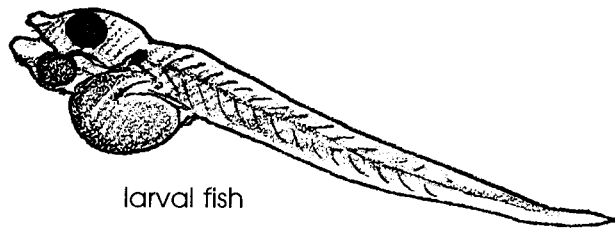


siphonophore



Oikopleura

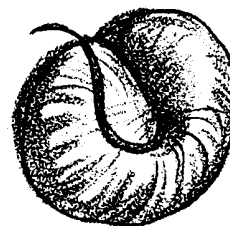
unlike other tunicates, Oikopleura (a primitive relatives of animals with backbones) retains its tail and notochord throughout its life



larval fish

Dinoflagellates

Dinoflagellates have characteristics of both plants and animals. They can photosynthesize, but many can also absorb nutrients or consume other organisms. They move, using their tails or flagella.



Noctiluca

"night light"—this dinoflagellate gives off a green glow that can be seen at night