

Taxonomic Key for Freshwater Fauna of Puerto Rico



The purpose of this taxonomic key is to assist you with the identification of freshwater fauna found in Puerto Rico. This key is a simplified version of more complex keys. When using this key please note that each couplet offers two options; each couplet is numbered and the numbers in bold refer to the next couplet. Sometimes animals may have missing parts, so you should look more than one organism.

CHOOSE ONE:

GO TO:

1. (a) Has shell----- **2**

(b) No shell----- **3**

2. (a) Hinged double shell----- **MUSSEL**



(b) Single shell----- **SNAIL**



3. (a) Body segmented or looks like a tick----- **4**

(b) Unsegmented flat body with a head

like an arrow with two black spots----- **PLANARIA**



4. (a) No legs----- **5**

(b) Legs----- **6**

5. (a) Smooth body with sucker----- **LEECH**



(b) Rounded body----- **EARTHWORM**



6. (a) 10 legs-(8 walking legs and claws)----- **7**

(b) 8 or 6 legs----- **10**

7. (a) oval-shaped brown body- **FRESHWATER CRAB (BURUQUENA)**

(b) elongated and segmented body (lobster-like)----- **8**



8. (a) Has well developed claws-----**MACROBRACHIUM**

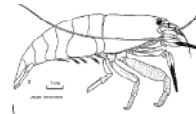


(b) Small claws or no claws-----**9**

9. (a) Clear body with elongated “nose”-----**XIPHOCARIS**



(b) Brown or green body without claws (brush of hair)----**ATYA**



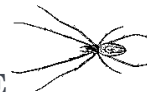
10. (a) 8 legs and produce web-----**SPIDERS**-----**11**

(b) 6 legs-----**13**

11. (a) Tiny red body with web near the water---**WENDILGARDA**

(b) Brown or silver body with big aerial web-----**12**

12. (a) Silver and green body with long legs-----**LEUCAUGE**



(b) Brown body; simulate the web with legs----**TETRAGNATHA**



13. (a) Oval shaped body, wings hard, legs with feathery swimming hairs

-----**ADULT WATER BUGS AND WATER BEETLES**



(b) Elongated body, legs smooth, and leathery wings-----**14**

14. (a) Swim and live on the surface of the pond-----

-----**WATER STRIDERS AND WATER BOATMAN**



(b) Fly over the pond, 4 wings clear or pigmented-----

-----**DRAGONFLIES AND DAMSELFLIES**



Taxonomic Key to Freshwater Fish of Puerto Rico

1. (a) Eel-shaped body-----**ANGUILA**
 (b) Regular body shape fish-----2



2. (a) Green-yellow and swim in the water colum-**MOUNTAIN MULLET**



(b) Body flattened on bottom-----3

3. (a) Brown, big mouth, and live on the bottom of the pool-----
 -----**BIGMOUTH SLEEPER**



(b) Blue-green color with modified pelvic fins-----**RIVER GOBY**



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