SITE INFORMATION TABLE	Date (dd/mm/yr):
River name:	Collectors name:
Site name:	School/organisation:
GPS co-ordinate Lat: Long:	Comments/notes: e.g. weather, impacts,
Site description: e.g. downstream of industry	alien plants, level of flow etc
pH: Water temp: Dissolved oxygen:	Water clarity/turbidity: see clarity tube at www.minisass.org

GPS co-ordinates as degrees, minutes, seconds (e.g. 29°30'25" S / 30°45'10" E) **OR** as decimal degrees (e.g. 29.50694°S/30.75277°E). If you don't have a GPS, register to upload your results at **www.minisass.org** , find your site on the map, click to upload your result and it saves the co-ordinates for you!

GROUPS	SENSITIVITY SCORE
Flat worms	3
Worms	2
Leeches	2
Crabs or shrimps	6
Stoneflies	17
Minnow mayflies	5
Other mayflies	11
Damselflies	4
Dragonflies	6
Bugs or beetles	5
Caddisflies (cased & uncased)	9
True flies	2
Snails	4
TOTAL SCORE	
NUMBER OF GROUPS	
AVERAGE SCORE	
Average Score = Total Score ÷ Number of groups	

Scoring

1. On this table circle the sensitivity scores of the identified insects.
2. Add up all of the sensitivity scores.
3. Divide the total of the sensitivity score by the number of groups identified.
4. The result is the average **score**, which can be interpreted into an ecological category below.

Interpretation of the miniSASS score: Although an ideal sample site has rocky, sandy, and vegetation habitats, not all habitats are always present at a site. If your river does not have rocky habitats use the **sandy type** category above to interpret your scores.

Ecological category (Condition)	River category	
	Sandy Type	Rocky Type
Unmodified (NATURAL condition)	> 6.9	> 7.9
Largely natural/few modifications (GOOD condition)	5.8 to 6.9	6.8 to 7.9
Moderately modified (FAIR condition)	4.9 to 5.8	6.1 to 6.8
Largely modified (POOR condition)	4.3 to 4.9	5.1 to 6.1
Seriously/critically modified (VERY POOR condition)	< 4.3	< 5.1

For more information or to put your results on the miniSASS map

visit the website www.minisass.org!

miniSASS www.minisass.org RIVER HEALTH

Stream Assessment Scoring System

A community river health monitoring tool

Visit www.minisass.org!

Version 2.0 September 2013

miniSASS can be used to monitor the health of a river and measure the general quality of the water in that river. It uses the composition of macroinvertebrates (small animals) living in rivers and is based on the sensitivity of the various animals to water quality. (note: miniSASS does NOT measure the contamination of the water by bacteria and viruses and thus does not determine if the river water is fit to drink).

Equipment list

- net
- white container / tray / ice-cream box
- pencil
- magnifying glass (optional)
- shoes/gumboots
- Hand wash / soap

How to make your own net

Take any piece of wire, for example an old clothes hanger, and bend it into the shape of a net. Then tie the netting (which can be any porous material) to the wire with a piece of string. Alternatively cut the bottom out of an ice cream container and staple netting to the bottom. Now you have a net!

Method

The best sites are those with rocks in moving water. Not all sites have rocks (**rocky type** rivers), but may be largely sandy (**sandy type** rivers).

1. Whilst holding a small net in the current, **disturb** the stones, vegetation, sand etc. with your feet or hands.
2. You can also lift stones out of the current and **pick** insects off gently with your fingers or forceps.
3. Do this for about **5 minutes** whilst ranging across the river to **different habitats** (biotopes).
4. Rinse the net and turn the contents into a plastic tray and **identify** each group using the identification guide (see insert: you could start with the dichotomous key and then use the identification guide for more information).
5. **Mark** the identified insects off on the identification guide.
6. Fill in the site information and **Add up** the sensitivity scores to determine the average score (see scoring sheet on back page).
7. Remember to **WASH** your hands when done!