SITE INFORMATION TABLE	
River name:	Date (dd/mm/yr):
Site name:	Collector's name:
GPS co-ord Lat(S): Long(E):	School/organisation:
Site description: e.g. downstream of industry	Notes: e.g. weather, impacts, flow, etc.
pH: Water temp: °C Dissolved oxygen: mg/l	Water clarity: info 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, upload your results at **www.minisass.org**, find your site on the map, click to upload your result and the co-ordinates are saved for you!

Scoring

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

Interpret 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 had no rocky habitats that were sampled, use the **sandy type** category to interpret your scores.

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 (miniSASS Score)	
Average Score = Total Score ÷ Number of groups	

Ecological category (Condition)	River Category	
	Sandy Type	Rocky Type
NATURAL CONDITION (Unchanged/untouched – Blue)	> 6.9	> 7.2
GOOD CONDITION (Few modifications – Green)	5.9 to 6.8	6.2 to 7.2
FAIR CONDITION (Some modifications – Orange)	5.4 to 5.8	5.7 to 6.1
POOR CONDITION (Lots of modifications – Red)	4.8 to 5.3	5.3 to 5.6
VERY POOR CONDITION (Critically modified – Purple)	< 4.8	< 5.3

Now, upload your results at www.miniSASS.org or use the miniSASS App (download from the miniSASS website) or send a scan of this page to info@minisass.org!

www.minisass.org

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miniSASS is used to monitor the health of a river and measure the general quality of the water in that river. It uses the make-up of macro-invertebrates (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 tell us if the river water is fit to drink.

Equipment list

- Net (see www.minisass.org)
- white container / tray / ice-cream box
- magnifying glass
- pencil
- shoes/gumboots
- hand wash / soap

Method

The best sites have rocks in moving water (**rocky type** rivers). Not all sites have rocks, 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 gently **pick** organisms off 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. I**dentify** each group of organisms using the identification guide (see insert: start with the dichotomous key, then use the identification guide for more information).
5. Fill in the site information and **mark** the identified organisms off on the scoring sheet (back page).
6. **Add up** the sensitivity scores and determine the **average score**.
7. Interpret your miniSASS score.
8. Remember: **WASH** your hands when done!

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCub24hwrLi52WR9C24uTbaQ

Don't have a net? Make your own – it is easy!

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!!