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The Mysterious Caddisfly Case

By: Autumn P.

On April 25th, 2022, at 9:42 AM, we went off the trail in our school forest and found a vernal pool. There were many critters that we found, including wood frog egg masses. One of the critters that we also found was a Caddisfly. The Caddisfly was a larva and had a bunch of small twigs as its case. There are many questions that I have, but the main question that I have is, What's the purpose of Caddisfly Cases?

Having just a case to look at, it might be a small challenge to figure out what the purpose is, though, it can also be pretty easy to figure it out too. Having a case of twigs or pebbles can be useful. The main reason for twigs or pebbles would be for camouflage, mostly from predators. Having the cases as protection would make sense because the Caddisfly that we found was a larva, and not yet full grown.

The answer to the question I had was because it's for the larva to protect themselves from predators, and to catch food. The reason for protecting themselves is because they're larva, and because they're an important item of fish, and are usually used as bait by anglers. Some Caddisflies make a web inside of the water to catch food. A question I still have is what happens to the cases after the full-grown Caddisfly leaves it. Although it could be easy to find out, it interests me to find more information on it.



Citation:

Arthur, Keith April 29, 2022 caddisfly <https://www.britannica.com/animal/caddisfly>