

# Insects in the Garden

## Aquatic insects

Take a moment to look through the pages of the Aquatic Insect Book at the Garden in the Arroyo Section to learn a wealth of information about the following aquatic insects:

- Mayflies
- Dragonflies
- Damselflies
- Stoneflies
- Backswimmers
- Giant Water Bugs
- Water Striders
- Caddisflies
- Mosquitoes

Look at the mosquito fish in the pond. These fish are non-native, but they help control mosquitoes by feeding on the aquatic larvae. They are often added to ponds in public places, but unfortunately, mosquito fish eat other insect larvae also, so they should not be introduced in natural streams. In natural systems, native insects prey on mosquito larvae, and help control them in streams and ponds, and some bat species rely on adult mosquitoes for survival.

Explore the creek bed of Mission Creek and see if you can find any of the native insects that thrive in pools and streams. Depending on the time of year you may be able to find some larval or adult insects. Be careful to not come in contact with **poison oak**, which is abundant near the creek.

## Butterflies and Moths

The Butterfly Book at the Garden in the Arroyo Section teaches about some of the most common and conspicuous butterflies and moths of our local area. The butterfly book explores the following species:

- Western Tiger Swallowtail
- Painted Lady
- Cabbage Butterfly
- Buckeye
- Chalcedon or Common Checkerspot
- California Sister
- White-lined Sphinx Moth
- Ceanothus Silk Moth
- California Oak Moth

Be sure to check out our **Monarch Butterfly** page for further updates on how you can help local monarchs as well as some answers to FAQs.

### **Suggested Questions for your Visit**

1. How can you tell the difference between Dragonflies and Damselflies?
2. Name one animal that eats Caddisfly Larvae.
3. Dragonflies are sometimes called 'the hawks of the insect world'. What do they feed on?
4. Male Giant Water Bugs carry something special on their backs (see picture in **Aquatic Insect Book**), what is it?
5. What is the name of the most important food plant for the caterpillars of the Monarch Butterfly? What color are these caterpillars?
6. Is the Cabbage White a native California butterfly?