

## Killer shrimp

### *Dikerogammarus villosus*

#### Description

#### Identification

Fast growing, laterally compressed, curled and semi-transparent. Can grow up to 30mm., which is large for a freshwater amphipod. Body consists of a head, thorax and abdomen. May appear striped or uniform in coloration pattern, mandibles are relatively large and can exhibit vicious and destructive behavior.

#### Habitat

Native to the Ponto-Caspian region of Europe. Prefers fresh and brackish waters such as lakes rivers and canals.

#### Reproduction

Can breed all year round so long as the water



temps are about 55 degrees F. During mating, males carry females on back. Females can carry 50 eggs and releases them into a ventrail brood chamber. Populations are predominantly female.

### **Impact**

Voracious predator of macroinvertebrates, including other amphipods.

### **Similar**

### **Monitoring and Rapid Response**

Mandatory ballast control, shoreside treatment plants, where ship ballast water could be unloaded, treated, and safely released. Filtration systems and chemical use for ship ballast are also options.

### **Credits**

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