

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 release them into a ventral brood chamber. Populations are predominantly female.





Midwest Invasive Species
Information Network

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

The information provided in this factsheet was gathered from the U.S Army Corps of Engineers. Individual species images that appear with a number in a black box are courtesy of the Bugwood.org network (<http://www.invasive.org>). Individual photo author credits may not be included due to the small display size of the images and subsequent difficulty of reading the provided text. All other images appear courtesy of Google (<http://images.google.com>).