

Identification of *Dikerogammarus* and other British Freshwater Shrimps

This identification sheet is derived from the FBA's publication, *Guide to Freshwater Invertebrates* which will be available in 2011 as a tribute to T.T. Macan.

Dikerogammarus villosus (often referred to as the killer shrimp) is an amphipod native to south-eastern Europe, which has recently spread to western Europe. In September 2010 it was found in Grafham Water, Cambridgeshire.

If you find *Dikerogammarus*, please send a photo and details of location to alert_nonnative@ceh.ac.uk.

Identification

Size and colour are useful aids to identification, but the projections on the urosome are definitive.

Maximum body length:

Crangonyx pseudogracilis: 10 mm

Gammarus species: 20 mm

Dikerogammarus villosus: 30 mm

Body colour:

Crangonyx pseudogracilis: Bluish-white (when live)

Gammarus species: Striped or uniform

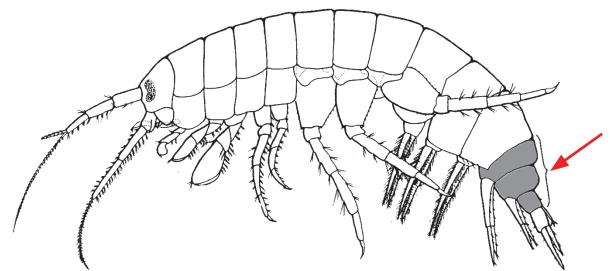
Dikerogammarus villosus: Striped or uniform

Features on urosome:

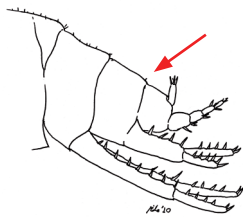
Crangonyx pseudogracilis: Urosome generally smooth (short fine setae may be present)

Gammarus species: Dorsal setae or spines present on all three segments

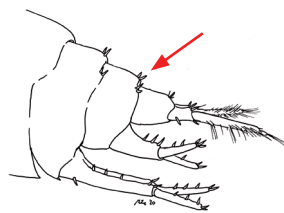
Dikerogammarus species: Urosome segments 1 and 2 each with a dorsal projection



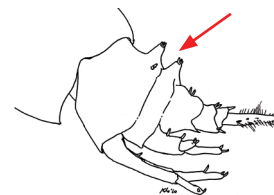
Gammarus with urosome highlighted *



Crangonyx pseudogracilis



Gammarus spp.



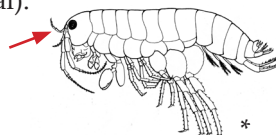
Dikerogammarus villosus

Other Amphipoda found in fresh water

Orchestia cavimana (semi-terrestrial):

Very short first pair of antenna (arrowed)

Max length: 20 mm

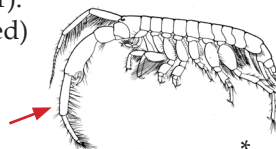


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Corophium species (brackish water):

Enlarged second antenna (arrowed)

Max length: 9 mm

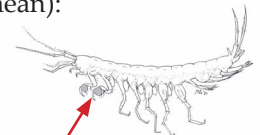


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Niphargus species (mostly subterranean):

Eyeless. Gnathopod hands (arrowed) about as broad as long

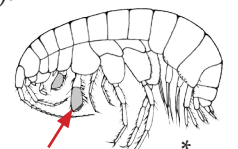
Max length: 15 mm



Crangonyx subterraneus (subterranean):

Eyeless. Gnathopod hands (arrowed) longer than broad

Max length: 6 mm



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* from Gledhill *et al.* (1993). *British Freshwater Crustacea Malacostraca*. Freshwater Biological Association, SP52.