Hemimysis anomala


Photo © David Mårding, Aquaria Vattenmuseum

Common name(s) in English	–
… and in other languages	Dutch: Kaspische Aasgarnaal. German: Schwebegarnele. Finnish: Kaspianhalkoisjalkainen. Russian: Myzida anomal'naya. Swedish: Röd pungräka. Röd immigrantpungräka. Ukrainian: Myzida anomal'na.
Scientific name	*Hemimysis anomala*
Organism group	Crustaceans. Mysids (opossum shrimps).
Size and appearance	Can reach 16–17 mm in length. In the Black Sea it grows to 8–10 mm, in the Sea of Azov and in fresh waters to a maximum of about 8.5 mm. The species is usually recognized by its red coloration, but individuals can sometimes be yellowish in colour or almost transparent. The eggs are carried in a brood pouch, hence the common name opossum shrimp.
May be confused with	Native mysids.
Geographical origin	Ponto-Caspian region, in and around the Black and Caspian Seas.
First observed in Swedish waters	1995, near the Askö Laboratory in the Trosa archipelago. Was also observed in 2003 in the waters off Stockholm (Djurgården).
Occurrence in Swedish seas and coastal areas	Baltic Sea proper, Trosa and Stockholm archipelagos. As this mysid hides on the seabed by day and only emerges into the water column at night, it is difficult to discover. It may therefore occur more widely than we are aware.
Occurrence in other sea areas	*Hemimysis anomala* is found across northern Europe, in the Danube (upper reaches), Main, Neckar and Rhine, and in reservoirs in the Netherlands and Belgium, where it sometimes occurs at high densities.
Probable means of introduction	Shipping, in ballast water. *Hemimysis anomala* may also have spread with currents, since in the 1960s the species was actively introduced into a number of water bodies, including the Kaunas Reservoir on the river Nemunas in Lithuania, only 200 km from its mouth on the Baltic Sea.
Habitat(s) in which species occurs	By day, *Hemimysis anomala* is to be found on substrata of stones and boulders, sometimes mixed with sand and gravel, although in estuaries it can occur on siltier substrates. By night, it forages in the water column. The species can tolerate salinities of up to around 18 psu and can also live in a freshwater environment. It prefers cold water, down to roughly 4°C, but can cope with water temperatures up to about 22°C.

Ecological effects	There is a danger of *Hemimysis anomala* affecting the structure of pelagic animal and plant communities and competing with indigenous mysids or fish fry for food. Heavy feeding pressure on different species of zooplankton could appreciably reduce the abundance of some of the prey species of this mysid.

FIND OUT MORE

- North European and Baltic Network on Invasive Alien Species: *Hemimysis anomala*
  http://www.nobanis.org/speciesInfo.asp?taxaID=1743
- FIMR, Baltic Sea Portal: Kaspianhalkoisjalkainen/Itämeri-sanakirja
  http://www.fimr.fi/fi/itamerikanta/sanasto/kaspianhalkoisjalkainen.html
- Aquatic Invasions (2006): The invasive Ponto-Caspian mysid *Hemimysis anomala* reaches the UK
  http://www.aquaticinvasions.ru/2006/index.html
- Baltic Sea Alien Species Database: *Hemimysis anomala*
  http://www.ku.lt/nemo/directory_details.php?sp_name=Hemimysis+anomala
- European Nature Information System Database (EUNIS): *Hemimysis anomala*
  http://eunis.eea.europa.eu/species-factsheet.jsp?idSpecies=40025&idSpeciesLink=40025
- Arbeitsgemeinschaft Wirbellose Tiere der Binnengewässer (AGW): *Hemimysis anomala*
  http://www.wirbellose.de/arten.cgi?action=show&artNo=107
- Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg: Garnelen im Hufeisensee
  http://www.verwaltung.uni-halle.de/DEZERN1/PRESSE/aktuellemeldungen/morigarn.htm
- 3,4 MB: Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum: Non-indigenous marine and estuarine species in The Netherlands: *Hemimysis anomala*
  http://www.marbee.fmns.rug.nl/pdf/marbee/2005-Wolf-ZoolMed.pdf
- Stichting Anemoon: *Hemimysis anomala*
  http://www.anemoon.org/spuisluis/020604.htm
- Die Digitale School: Kaspische Aasgarnaal
  http://www.digischool.nl/bi/onderwaterbiologie/html/biologie/zoetwate/kaspische_aasgarnaal.htm
- FotoCommunity: Schwebegarnele *Hemimysis anomala*
  http://www.fotocommunity.de/pc/pc/cat/720/display/4383752
- UNEP GRID: Black Sea Red Data Book Web Site: *Hemimysis anomala*
  http://www.grid.unep.ch/bsein/redbook/txt/hemimysa.htm

PHOTO CREDITS

- This factsheet on *Hemimysis anomala* was created on 20 September 2005
- First update: 29 June 2006
- Second update: 1 November 2006
- Translated by Martin Naylor on 1 December 2006
- Third update ("Find out more" only): 16 December 2006