



bloody red shrimp

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Common Name	bloody red shrimp
Genus & Species	<i>Hemimysis anomala</i>
Family	Mysidae (mysid shrimps)
Order	Mysidacea
Class	Malacostraca

Diagnosis: In general, this species is typically less than a ½ inch in length with large stalked compound eyes. The bloody red shrimp gets its common name from its color which is typically a rich red; however, this may vary from ivory-yellow to transparent. This species is often confused with the Great Lakes native opossum shrimp, *Mysis relicta*, but is distinguishable with the use of a dissecting microscope. The separating characteristic of the two species lies in the shape of the telson or tail. The native species has a deeply forked tail whereas the non-native invasive species has a flat terminal end with two prominent spines.



Ecology: The bloody red shrimp is a free-swimming omnivore, feeding primarily on algae and zooplankton. In regards to reproduction, females are able to bear up to 66 eggs in a clutch and are capable of reproducing three times per year. Once hatched, larvae reach maturity in 45 days with adults having an average lifespan of 9 months. This species has a characteristic swarming behavior, where groups of more than 1500 individuals may be observed in 1-m².

Habitat & Distribution: This species tends to avoid soft bottom habitats, preferring hard bottom surfaces such as rocks and bivalve shells. During daylight hours, the bloody red shrimp may be found occupying rock crevices or shadowed areas. The native range is the Ponto-Caspian region which includes the brackish waters of the Black, Azov, and Caspian Seas. From its native range, this species has dispersed across Europe, reaching the Baltic Sea in 1992 and the United Kingdom in 2004. In the U.S., this species was recorded for the first time in 2006 from Lake Ontario and a channel associated with Lake Michigan. Introductions and dispersal of this species has been attributed to vessel ballast water and the aquarium trade which uses the species as a high-nutrition food for aquarium fish.

Status: In Illinois, established populations of the bloody red shrimp have been documented from two locations. Lake County near Waukegan harbor was identified in 2006, while Cook County near Jackson harbor was identified in 2007.

USGS Fact Sheets: <http://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/FactSheet.aspx?SpeciesID=2627>