



harpacticoid copepod

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Common Name	harpacticoid copepod
Genus & Species	<i>Schizopera borutzkyi</i>
Family	Ergasilidae
Order	Poecilostomatoida
Class	Maxillopoda

Diagnosis: A harpacticoid copepod that can be distinguished from native U.S. species by its broad rostrum and long caudal rami that is twice as long as wide. On the first pair of walking legs, both the exopod and endopod have 3 segments. Four setae or 4 spines may be present on the exopod of the last segment on the first pair of walking legs or second pair of walking legs, respectively. Also, on the second segment of the exopods there is either 1 exterior spine or 1 interior spine on the first pair of walking legs or the second pair of walking legs respectively. Adults average 0.5 to 0.6 mm in length.



Ecology: Reproduction occurs sexually with females laying eggs and carrying them within an egg sac until the young hatch. This species is capable of diapause which has potentially led to its successful dispersal outside its native range.

Habitat & Distribution: *Schizopera borutzkyi* is native to the Danube River delta where it inhabits, lakes, streams, and brackish waters occupying depths of 6 to 15 meters. In the U.S., this species was recorded for the first time from the Great Lakes basin in 1998. In deepwater habitats of Lake Michigan, *S. borutzkyi* has been found at densities of 3,700 individuals/m². In nearshore areas, this species represented approximately 75% of the harpacticoid population.

Status: In Illinois, established populations of this species have only been recorded from Lake Michigan and not inland waters.

USGS Fact Sheet: <http://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/FactSheet.aspx?SpeciesID=2374>