







Gammarus tigrinus



Photo © Johan Lindholm, Åbo Akademi University

Common name(s) in English	–
... and in other languages	Finnish: Leväkatka. German: Gefleckter Flußflohkrebs. Getigerter Bachflohkrebs. Polish: Kielz tygrys. Russian: Bokoplav. Swedish: Tigermärla.
Scientific name	<i>Gammarus tigrinus</i>
Organism group	Crustaceans. Amphipods.
Size and appearance	<p>This amphipod can be anything from about 4 mm to 10–11 mm in length. In general, the males are somewhat larger than the females. Specimens found in the Gulf of Finland were 7–11 mm long. The body colour is whitish to yellow, with black patches or black transverse stripes/bands.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">   </div> <p>Different colour variants of <i>Gammarus tigrinus</i>. Left: © Jonne Kotta, Eesti Mereinstituut. Right: © Hugh MacIsaac, University of Windsor.</p>
May be confused with	Native amphipods of the genus <i>Gammarus</i> (of which there are several species throughout the Baltic Sea).
Geographical origin	North America.
First observed in Swedish waters	Has not yet been observed in Swedish waters.
Occurrence in Swedish seas and coastal areas	Has not yet been observed in Swedish waters.
Occurrence in other sea areas	This species was first recorded in Europe in 1931 (in Britain and Ireland). It found its way to Britain in ballast water, but has also been actively introduced into German rivers as fish food. It is now to be found along the south, south-east and east coasts of the Baltic, from Germany north to Finland. In 2003 it was observed in the Gulf of Riga and the Gulf of Finland. The first discovery of the

	species in the Baltic Sea region in a broad sense was in a German river in 1975.
Probable means of introduction	Shipping, in ballast water. Deliberate introduction as fish food.
Habitat(s) in which species occurs	<i>Gammarus tigrinus</i> is a benthic species. It thrives in various environments, among benthic vegetation, on sand and on coarse stone substrates. It often inhabits rivers and can cope with a broad spectrum of salinities, from fresh water to 25 psu. The species also has a wide temperature tolerance, with an ability to live in waters ranging from around 0°C probably to roughly 35°C. It has become very widespread in rivers in Germany, the Netherlands and other countries, where it is breeding and spreading rapidly.
Ecological effects	<p>successful in Polish waters. In certain areas (Puck Bay) it coexists with other species, but the commonest scenario is that this species gradually displaces other amphipods. It is highly tolerant of changes in its environment, including pollution.</p> <p>In German rivers <i>G. tigrinus</i> was the commonest amphipod up to the end of the 1990s, but has now begun to be outcompeted by the Ponto-Caspian killer shrimp (<i>Dikerogammarus villosus</i>), another amphipod present in the southern Baltic. There are indications that the highly aggressive <i>D. villosus</i> could become dominant over <i>G. tigrinus</i> and hence also over other, native amphipod species.</p>
Other effects	<i>Gammarus tigrinus</i> is an omnivore and outcompetes native species of amphipods. It has been very
<p><i>FIND OUT MORE</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Memoranda Soc. Fauna Flora Fennica</i>: First findings of the North American amphipod <i>Gammarus tigrinus</i> Sexton, 1939 along the Finnish coast (Pienimäki, Helavuori, Leppäkoski). 80,2004 • North European and Baltic Network on Invasive Alien Species: <i>Gammarus tigrinus</i> http://www.nobanis.org/speciesInfo.asp?taxaID=964 • Baltic Sea Alien Species Database: <i>Gammarus tigrinus</i> http://www.ku.lt/nemo/directory_details.php?sp_name=Gammarus+tigrinus • Eesti Mereinstituut: The North-American amphipod <i>Gammarus tigrinus</i> arrived in the Gulf of Riga in July 2003 http://www.sea.ee/Sektorid/merebioloogia/inglise/Uudis1.htm • Alien species in Poland: <i>Gammarus tigrinus</i> http://www.iop.krakow.pl/ias/species.asp?8 •  297 kB: <i>Diversity and Distributions</i>: Recent drastic changes in the gammarid fauna of the Vistula River deltaic system in Poland caused by alien invaders http://www.biol.uni.lodz.pl/~kzbih/publikacje/publikacje_pdfy/Jazdzewski_Konopacka_Grabowski_2004.pdf •  108 kB: <i>Oceanologia</i> 45(3), 2003: The invasive amphipod <i>Gammarus tigrinus</i> Sexton, 1939, in Puck Bay http://www.iopan.gda.pl/oceanologia/453norma.pdf • NIK-Wissenschaftler: Die Werra ist noch immer schwer krank http://idw-online.de/pages/de/news119016 •  8,7 MB: Bundesanstalt für Gewässerkunde: Neozoa (Makrozoobenthos) an der deutschen Nordseeküste: Eine Übersicht http://www.stefannehring.de/downloads/083_Nehring+Leuchs-1999_BfG-Bericht-1200_neozoa-nordsee.pdf •  3,4 MB: Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum: Non-indigenous marine and estuarine species in The Netherlands: <i>Gammarus tigrinus</i> http://www.marbee.fmns.rug.nl/pdf/marbee/2005-Wolf-ZoolMed.pdf • Marine and estuarine macroinvertebrates, macroalgae and fish introduced to the Netherlands: <i>Gammarus tigrinus</i> 	

<http://home.hetnet.nl/~faassema/introduced%20Crustacea.html>


- European Nature Information System Database (EUNIS): *Gammarus tigrinus*
<http://eunis.eea.europa.eu/species-factsheet.jsp?idSpecies=22296&idSpeciesLink=22296>
-  924 kB: ICAIS lecture (Dirk Platvoet) If they can't meet you, they can't eat you
http://www.icais.org/pdf/21Tuesday/B/tues_b_1_pm/Dirk_Platvoet.pdf
- University of Windsor: *Gammarus tigrinus*: a new invasive amphipod in the Great Lakes
<http://web2.uwindsor.ca/courses/biology/macisaac/pages/amphipod.htm>

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<http://www.sea.ee/Sektorid/merebioloogia/inglise/Uudis1.htm>
- © Hugh MacIsaac, Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research, University of Windsor:
Gammarus tigrinus: a new invasive amphipod in the Great Lakes
<http://web2.uwindsor.ca/courses/biology/macisaac/pages/amphipod.htm>

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