Invasive Species Alert

Killer Shrimp

(*Dikerogammarus villosus*)
Not detected in Michigan

Identification:

- Body coloration ranges from transparent and striped to a uniform dark color
- Curled body, laterally compressed
- Sexual maturity reached at 6 mm in length, males grow larger than females
- First 4 pairs of legs extend down and forward, next 3 pairs extend down and backward
- 2 pairs of antennae

Photo: S. Giesen, NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory

Habitat: Habitat for killer shrimp consists of fresh/brackish water in lakes, rivers, and canals. With the exception of sand, this species can adapt to a wide variety of substrates with a wide range of suitable oxygen, temperature, and salinity levels.

Diet: This omnivorous predator, consuming mostly macroinvertebrates, exhibits cannibalistic habits and will occasionally eat conspecific young and weak adults. Interestingly, the killer shrimp has also been known to kill or injure potential prey without consuming it.

Native Range: Ponto-Caspian basin of Eastern Europe

Local Concern: The potential to spread rapidly through the Great Lakes if introduced through ballast or no-ballast-on-board water exchange is high due to the level of tolerance to various water conditions.

Potential Means of Introduction: Ballast or no-ballast-on-board water exchange/discharge

Report this species at www.misin.msu.edu or download the MISIN smartphone app and report it from your phone