

Bythotrephes cederstroemi
Spiny Waterflea



Cercopagididae, the water flea family



Diagnostic Characteristics

- Tail is a long straight spine that is twice as long as body
- Tail has one to three pairs of barbs
- Well-developed abdominal region

Background

- Native to Europe and Asia; introduced through ballast water
- Invasions result in decreased native zooplankton species
- Can foul fishing lines and downrigger cables
- Utilized as food for some fish species
- Direct competition with small fish
- Usually inhabits the upper water column of large and small lakes
- Most abundant in late summer and autumn

Photo Credit:

U.S. Geological Survey/photo by Kevin Keeler and Lynn Lesko

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Henk Ketelaars <http://www.issg.org/database/image.asp?ii=986&ic=e>