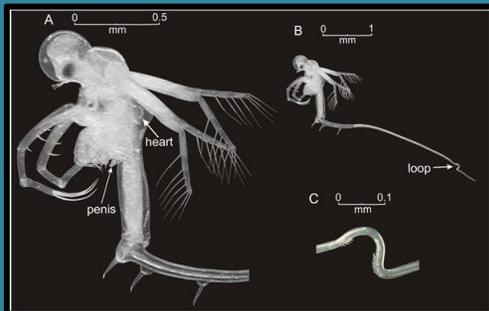


Cercopagis pengoi

Fishhook Waterflea

Cercopagididae, the water flea
family



Diagnostic Characteristics

- Pronounced head with 2 pairs of antenna
- Large single eye and 8 legs
- Front pair of legs are 3-4 times longer than remaining legs
- Long tail has 3 barbs and a loop near the end

Background

- Native to Southern Europe; Introduced into the U.S. through ballast water
- Voracious predator
- Ability to outcompete native species that feed on plankton
- May compete with native zooplankton and could affect the abundance and condition of fish and larvae that depend on them
- Can clog nets and fishing gear
- Often transported on fishing equipment

Photo Credit:

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