

○ New England Marine Invader ID Card Amphipods and Shrimp



Gretchen Carlson

Caprella mutica
Japanese Skeleton Shrimp

- Mottled red body with a ridge of small spines along back
- Males can be over 2 inches long, first two body segments are smooth and very long, giving the appearance of a long bent neck
- Females are smaller with a brood pouch with red spots
- Native to the north Pacific coasts of Asia, now common throughout New England, especially on docks and pilings



Andrew Martinez

Skeleton shrimp are a large family of caprellid amphipods with a long body, large front claws, long antennae, and hind legs that cling to surfaces (see photo above of *C. mutica* clinging to a colonial tunicate). Caprellids are often highly animated and can be seen “waving” back and forth in large groups.



Adrienne Pappal

Palaemon elegans
European Rock Shrimp

- Mostly translucent body with dark red-brown bands, neon blue claws, and orange/blue bands on legs
- Can be up to 2.5 inches long
- Distinct, shovel-shaped rostrum has 7 to 9 teeth across the top
- Occurs near docks, in tide pools, and in salt marsh creeks
- Found from Connecticut to Maine, range is expanding



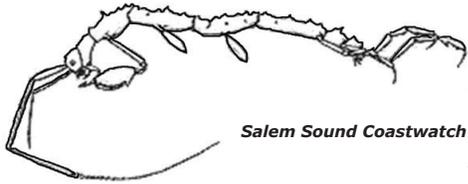
Arjan Gittenberger

First observed in New England in 2010, *P. elegans* belongs to the grass shrimp family, which includes both native and non-native species. The body includes a long pair of antennae, a serrated rostrum, and five pairs of legs. The first two pairs of legs have small, slender claws.

Similar Species

Family Caprellidae Skeleton Shrimp

- *Aeginina longicornis* (illustration below) is the only species with males as big as *C. mutica*, but the first two body segments of *A. longicornis* are much smaller and spines are present along the entire back



Salem Sound Coastwatch

- *Caprella penantis* (photo below) is much smaller than *C. mutica*, has short body segments like *A. longicornis* but with no spines along the back



Agnes Mittermayr



Adrienne Pappal

Palaemon spp. Grass Shrimp

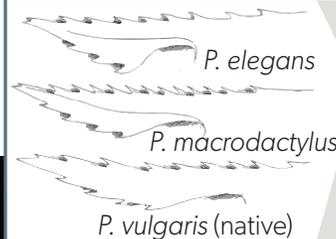
- Transparent with muted coloration and banding
- New England species include *P. pugio*, *P. vulgaris*, and *P. intermedius*



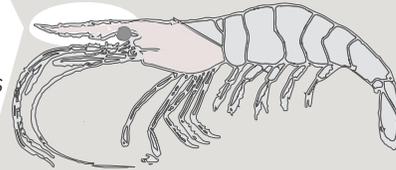
Cristina Kennedy

Palaemon macrodactylus Asian Shrimp (non-native)

- Dark, muted body color with reddish spots and orange-beige bands on claws and legs
- Can have a whitish stripe along the back
- Usually 10 to 13 teeth across top of rostrum with



Rostrum Identification



The shape of the rostrum and arrangement of teeth along it may help to distinguish palaemonid shrimp species in the field, particularly for large individuals. A microscope may be needed for definitive ID.

- double rows of setae (fine hairs) along bottom
- Native to the Northwest Pacific, first observed in Long Island Sound in 2001, now found north to New Hampshire
- Difficult to tell apart from native shrimp in the field

Species are native unless otherwise noted.