

SPINY WATERFLEA

Bythotrephes longimanus (Formerly *Bythotrephes cederstroemi*)

Cercopagididae, the water flea family

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

FACTSHEET INFORMATION

Summary of Invasiveness

- Spiny waterfleas are invasive zooplankton that preys on other zooplankton thus reducing the availability of those species as food for organisms higher up the foodchain.
- They also increase the predator avoidance of native zooplankton, forcing them deeper in the water and decreasing their fecundity.
- Reproduces asexually.

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.
- Opaque in color.
- 1/4 to 5/8 inch long.

Introduction and Movement

- Spiny waterflea is native to Europe and Asia.
- It was introduced into Lake Ontario in 1982 via the ballast water of transoceanic vessels and had spread to Lake Superior by 1987.
- Recreational activities such as fishing and boating are thought to be the primary means of spread for this species.

Prevention Strategy

- To prevent accidental introductions, ensure that your watercraft and water related equipment is thoroughly cleaned, drained, and dry.
- When passing inspection stations during their hours of operations, make sure to stop for an inspection and decontamination.
- After visiting waters that are out of state, especially states with infested waters, ensure that your boat has been inspected or allowed dry time of at least 30 days prior to launching in Idaho waters.
- Do not transport live bait or standing water.
- Always Remember To: **CLEAN** ✂ **DRAIN** ✂ **DRY**

Sources

- CABI Invasive Species Compendium: <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/120606>.



Gary Montz, Bugwood.org



Dave Bremner, Michigan Sea Grant



NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, CC BY-SA 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT: INVASIVESPECIES.IDAHO.GOV
TO REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES IN IDAHO, PLEASE CALL 1-877-336-8676.