

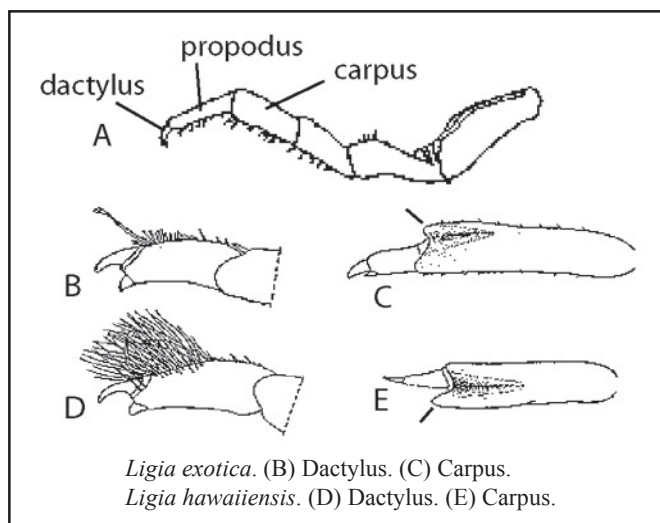
Wharf Roach

Phylum Arthropoda
Subphylum Crustacea
Class Malacostraca
Superorder Peracarida
Order Isopoda
Family Ligiidae



DESCRIPTION

This large gray-brown isopods can grow to about 3 cm. It has large bulging eyes and long antennae and uropoda. Smaller individuals can be confused with *Ligia hawaiiensis*, an endemic species. They can be distinguished by an examination of the last leg (seventh pereopod). The dactylus of *L. hawaiiensis* has long setae, while that of *L. exotica* does not. Also the carpus of *L. hawaiiensis* has a process which extends past the distal margin of the appendage (Tahiti and Howarth, in prep.).



HABITAT

Found scurrying on rocks and pilings above the water line in harbors.

DISTRIBUTION

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

Honolulu Harbor, Oahu and Hilo Harbor, Hawaii

NATIVE RANGE

Northeastern Atlantic and Mediterranean

PRESENT DISTRIBUTION

In harbors of warm and temperate seas worldwide.

MECHANISM OF INTRODUCTION

Unintentional, carried by ships.

IMPACT

Ecological impact unstudied, but competition with the native *Ligia hawaiiensis* is likely.

ECOLOGY

Feeding

Ligia exotica is a scavenger, feeding on detritus and plant debris.

Reproduction

With separate sexes. Fertilization is internal. Females lay eggs in cracks and crevices in the intertidal zone.

REMARKS

A recent (1996) collection of this species at Hilo represents the first valid record of *L. exotica* from the Hawaiian Islands. The specimens were examined and identified by Stephano Taiti. Previous records of *L. exotica* from Hawaii by Robertson, Edmondson, Van Name, and others, are all based on *Ligia hawaiiensis*, an endemic species (Taiti, pers comm.)

REFERENCES

Taiti, S. and F. Howarth (in prep.) A key to the terrestrial isopods of Hawaii.