

SIMPLE KEY TO CAVE LIFE IN BRITAIN

For species level identification see Gledhill, T., Sutcliffe, D. W. & Williams, W. D. 1993 "British freshwater Crustacea Malacostraca: a key with ecological notes." Freshwater Biological Association Scientific Publication 52

1. Is your specimen shrimp-like?

- If not go to 2

To separate the shrimp-like animals, first look to see if eyes are present.

If eyes are present it will be in the genus *Gammarus* (fig. 1a); if no eyes are present it will either be *Crangonyx subterraneus* (fig. 1b) or in the genus *Niphargus* (fig. 1c).

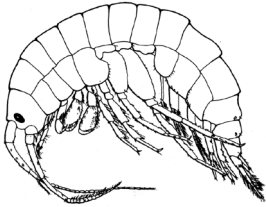


Fig. 1a *Gammarus* (from 'British freshwater Crustacea Malacostraca: a key with ecological notes,' Gledhill *et al.*, 1993)

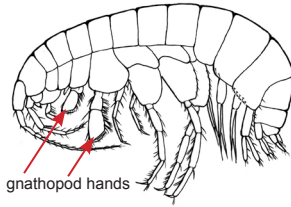


Fig. 1b *Crangonyx subterraneus* (re-drawn from Shellenberg, A. 1942, p.83)

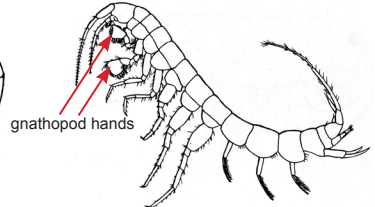


Fig. 1c *Niphargus aquilex* (from 'British freshwater Crustacea Malacostraca: a key with ecological notes,' Gledhill *et al.*, 1993)

Separating *Niphargus* from *Crangonyx subterraneus* is more difficult and requires you to look at the gnathopod hands (you probably need a microscope).

Gnathopod hands longer than broad (figs. 1b, and 2a, b) *Crangonyx subterraneus*

Gnathopod hands about as broad as long (figs. 1c, and 2c, d) *Niphargus*

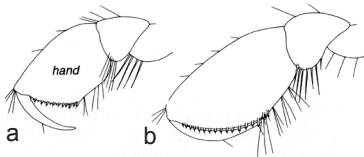


Fig. 2a & b *Crangonyx subterraneus*: a, male gnathopod 1; b male gnathopod 2. (from Gledhill *et al.*, 1993)

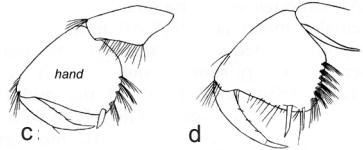


Fig. 2c & d *Niphargus aquilex*: c, gnathopod 1; d gnathopod 2. (from Gledhill *et al.*, 1993)

2. If your sample is not shrimp-like it will either look like (fig. 3a) a pale, elongate, eyeless woodlouse (*Proasellus cavaticus*) or (fig. 3b) a small (about 1mm) eyeless, more or less colourless animal (*Bathynella*).

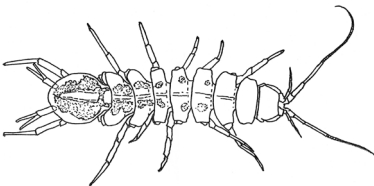


Fig. 3a *Proasellus cavaticus* (from Henry, J. P. & Magniez, G. 1972 Sous Plancher, N.S. 10, 45-49)

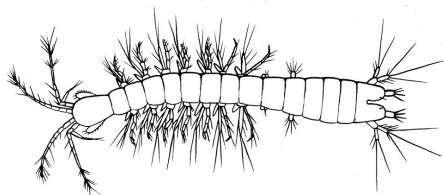


Fig. 3b *Bathynella / Antrobathynella* (from 'British freshwater Crustacea Malacostraca: a key with ecological notes,' Gledhill *et al.*, 1993)