NOTES AND NEWS

A NEW INVASIVE SPECIES IN THE NORTH-EAST OF FRANCE,
HEMIMYSIS ANOMALA G.O. SARS, 1907 (MYSIDACEA)

BY

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INTRODUCTION

Originating from the Ponto-Caspian area, Hemimysis anomala G.O. Sars, 1907 occurs at many localities in quite variable salinity, i.e., from fresh water to sea water of 18‰ (Băcescu, 1954; Komarova, 1991). The species prefers lentic habitats and was reported from the coastal areas of the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea, and up to 50 km upstream the various rivers flowing into those seas (Băcescu, 1954; Komarova, 1991).

Between the 1950s and 1960s, H. anomala was introduced into various sites in Moldavia (Komarova, 1991) and Lithuania (Mordukhai-Boltovskoi, 1979) as a food complement for breeding fish. From there, it reached the Baltic Sea where it was observed for the first time in the Gulf of Finland in 1992 (Salemaa & Hietalahti, 1993), and it had reached England in 2004 (Holdich et al., 2006).

The first observation of the species in the Rhine basin was reported from the Neckar river in 1997 (Schleuter et al., 1998), then in the river Main in 1998 (Schleuter & Schleuter, 1998). In 1999, H. anomala was also found in the stomach of young percid fish in the delta of the Rhine, in the Netherlands (Kelleher et al., 1999). Its presence was reported from the Danube in 1999 (Wittmann et al., 1999).

OBSERVATIONS IN FRANCE

Specimens of Mysidacea collected in the north-east of France (Alsace, Bas-Rhin) were sent to the Natural History Museum in London, and identified as
Hemimysis anomala G.O. Sars, 1907 (fig. 1). Specimens collected in January 2006 had a total length between 6.5 mm and 11.0 mm. This is the first observation of H. anomala in Alsace. No other published data on the presence of this species in other French areas exist at this time, to my knowledge. Another species of Mysidae of Ponto-Caspian origin, Limnomyis benedeni (Czerniavsky, 1882) had already been observed in the river Rhine in 1997 (km 294; Wittmann & Ariani, 2000). It was, at the time, the first freshwater mysid present in France; probably this species has continued its progress upstream the Rhine since. However, our investigations did not result in any observations of Limnomyis benedeni at the various locations described in this paper.

**DISTRIBUTION**

The observations of Hemimysis anomala described herein were carried out at day and by night, by SCUBA diving. A 0.5 m diameter swarm made up of countless individuals was observed for the first time during daytime in an isolated gravel pit in Alsace in June 2005 (48°20'09.49"N 7°34'00.61"E, fig. 1), at shallow