

Freshwater Shrimp (*Gammarus* sp.)

An Amphipod Crustacean
(flattened side-to-side).

2 pairs of antennae and 7 pairs of legs.

Size: Up to 20mm

Detritivore – feeds on dead and decaying organic matter (plants, algae, carrion etc.) at the bottom of a river or pond.

Breathes by moving swimming legs which propel a stream of water over gills, allowing them to obtain a constant supply of oxygen.

Males are larger and often seen carrying female prior to mating. Females carry eggs in brood pouch under body. Swims and wriggles on its side in a 'C' shape and seeks shelter in weed or under stones in faster currents. Very important food source for variety of fish (bullheads, stone loach, minnow, stickleback), birds and insect larvae.

