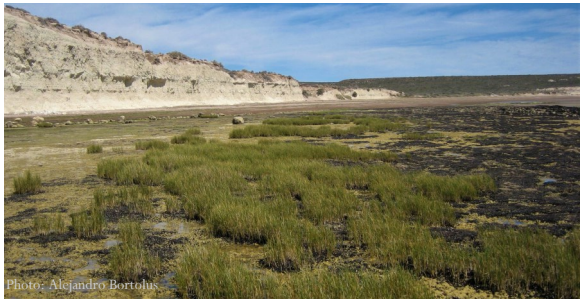
Orchestia gammarellus

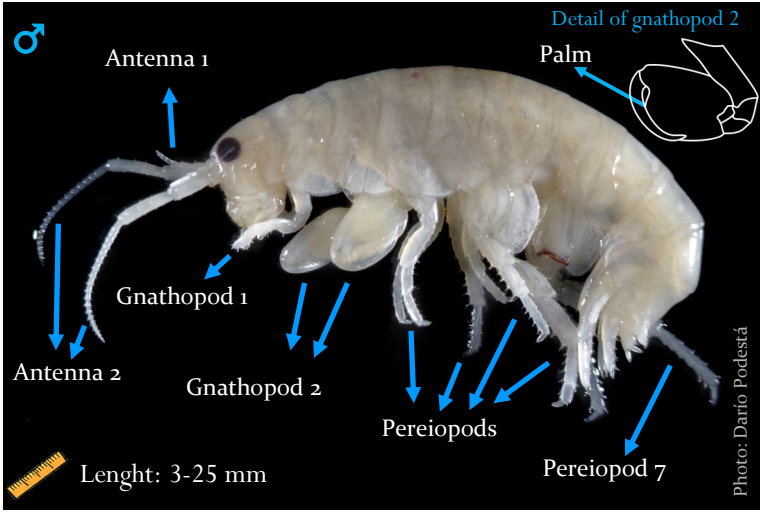
Salt marsh grasshopper

MARINE-COASTAL EXOTIC SPECIES GUIDE FOR ARGENTINA

DESCRIPTION

- Amphipod with antero-posterior elongated body, two pairs of antennas and gnathopods, and 5 pairs of pereiopods.
- Antenna 1 shorter than antenna 2.
- Adult males with robust gnathopods, gnathopod 2 with sinuous palm. Females with smaller gnathopods.
- Pereiopod 7 flattened in males and thin in females.
- Body color from green to brown.





HABITAT

This species lives in shallow marine environments such as intertidals and estuaries. It can be found between the roots of the *Spartina* cordgrass reaching high densities.

Orchestia gammarellus – Salt marsh grasshopper

Platorchestia platensis

Atlantorchestoidea brasiliensis

SIMILAR SPECIES

- *Platorchestia platensis*: Status unknown. Palm of gnathopod 2 with a notch in the middle region in adult males (detail); pereiopod 7 thin and elongated.
- *Atlantorchestoidea brasiliensis*: Native. Gnathopod 2 with a convex palm in adult males (detail); pereiopod 7 thin and elongated.

INVASIVE STATUS

Orchestia gammarellus is native to Europe. In Argentina, it was found in several localities from San Matías Gulf (41° S) to Punta Loyola (57° S)[(1)]. It is suspected that its introduction was mediated by ballast water or as part of ship's hull fouling.

IMPACT ON NATIVE COMMUNITIES

Its impact is unkown, although its high density can affect the food chain, modifying the availability of organic matter to other organisms.

CONTACT US

This guide has been developed by the Grupo de Ecología en Ambientes Costeros (GEAC), from CENPAT (CONICET). If you find this species outside the reported areas, please contact us and let us know the date, locality, approximate number of individuals and, if possible, send us a picture:

especiesexoticasarg@gmail.com

Grupo de Ecología en Ambientes Costeros (GEAC)

Adriana Radulovici, Centre for Biodiversity Genomics (http://www.boldsystems.org/) Laura I. Weber, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (http://www.boldsystems.org/)

(1)Bortolus et al., 2009 *Wetlands* 29(2) 772-780.