

Information note May 2025

New Arrival of a Marine Invasive Non-Native Species

Nippoleucon hinumenis (a cumacean or ‘hooded shrimp’) found in the Thames Estuary

What is it?

Nippoleucon hinumenis is a small shrimp-like crustacean, approximately 3-6 mm in length and native to the Northwest Pacific.

It usually lives buried amongst sandy and muddy sediments, but it swims in the water column to mate.

Likely pathways of introduction and spread are thought to be through shipping (ballast water) and/or hull fouling.



Credit: Monaca Noble, SERC.

What is the problem?

Invasive non-native species (INNS) can pose major threats to native biodiversity, human health and ecosystem services.

Nippoleucon hinumensis reaches high abundances in some estuaries in California where it has been introduced. Its ecological impacts are not well studied, but it could be an important part of estuarine food webs, as a filter-feeder and food organism. No economic impacts have been reported; however, it is a fouling organism of ships or infrastructure and potential fishery impacts due to food web disruption. We don't yet know the current abundance and likely impact (if any) of this species in England.

First recorded in Europe from the Baltic Sea in 2019, it has now been found in the UK. Individuals were found in the Thames Estuary in September 2024 as part of an ecological monitoring programme.

We need your help!

- **Recording:** Raise awareness of this species to be recorded and reported when carrying out or commissioning ecological surveys. Submit records to [iRecord](#).
- Further data will really help us to understand the potential impact of this species and understand the pathways of introduction and spread
- Promote and employ best-practice biosecurity to prevent this and other INNS from being introduced and spread <https://www.nonnativespecies.org/biosecurity/marine-biosecurity/>

For more information: https://invasions.si.edu/nemesis/species_summary/-239

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