**DESCRIPTION**

This large gray-brown isopods can grow to about 3 cm. It has large bulging eyes and long antennae and uropoda. Smaller individuals can be confused with *Ligia hawaiiensis*, an endemic species. They can be distinguished by an examination of the last leg (seventh pereopod). The dactylus of *L. hawaiiensis* has long setae, while that of *L. exotica* does not. Also the carpus of *L. hawaiiensis* has a process which extends past the distal margin of the appendage (Tahiti and Howarth, in prep.).

**HABITAT**

Found scurrying on rocks and pilings above the water line in harbors.

**DISTRIBUTION**

**HAWAIIAN ISLANDS**

Honolulu Harbor, Oahu and Hilo Harbor, Hawaii

**NATIVE RANGE**

Northeastern Atlantic and Mediterranean

**PRESENT DISTRIBUTION**

In harbors of warm and temperate seas worldwide.

**MECHANISM OF INTRODUCTION**

Unintentional, carried by ships.

**IMPACT**

Ecological impact unstudied, but competition with the native *Ligia hawaiiensis* is likely.
**Ligia exotica**

**ECOLOGY**

**Feeding**

*Ligia exotica* is a scavenger, feeding on detritus and plant debris.

**Reproduction**

With separate sexes. Fertilization is internal. Females lay eggs in cracks and crevices in the intertidal zone.

**REMARKS**

A recent (1996) collection of this species at Hilo represents the first valid record of *L. exotica* from the Hawaiian Islands. The specimens were examined and identified by Stephano Taiti. Previous records of *L. exotica* from Hawaii by Robertson, Edmondson, Van Name, and others, are all based on *Ligia hawaiiensis*, an endemic species (Taiti, pers comm.)

**REFERENCES**

Taiti, S. and F. Howarth (in prep.) A key to the terrestrial isopods of Hawaii.