

Alicella gigantea

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Alicella gigantea Latest News

New findings reveal that the rare giant shrimp gigantea is widespread, occurring in 59% of the world's oceans.

About Alicella gigantea

- **Alicella gigantea** is a **giant amphipod crustacean** that can grow up to **34 cm in length**, making it one of the **largest deep-sea amphipods** ever recorded.
- It was long considered **extremely rare**, with few sightings since its discovery. A major early sighting involved a **28 cm specimen at 5,304 m depth** in the **North Pacific**, but it remained **unidentified for years**.

Taxonomy and Habitat

- **Amphipods** are **shrimp-like crustaceans** with **over 10,000 known species**, commonly found in a wide range of **aquatic environments**.
- **A. gigantea** thrives in **deep-sea zones**, including:

- **Abyssal depths (3,000-6,000 m)**, and
- **Hadal zones (>6,000 m)**.
- It was found at depths up to **6,746 m** in areas such as the **Murray Fracture Zone** in the **North Pacific**.

Global Distribution and Dataset

- The new research compiled **195 records** of *A. gigantea* from **75 locations** across the **Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian Oceans**, covering **15 different seafloor features**.
- This data establishes **A. gigantea** as a **globally distributed species**, not a localised rarity.
- **The Pacific Ocean** emerged as the species' **most significant habitat**, with **75% of its seafloor area** falling within the **suitable depth range** for the species.

Alicella gigantea FAQs

Q1: What is Alicella gigantea?

Ans: Alicella gigantea is a species of deep-sea amphipod, known for being among the largest amphipods ever recorded, found in the deepest parts of the ocean, including the Mariana Trench.

Q2: How deep is the habitat of Alicella gigantea?

Ans: This species lives at depths of 6,000 to 10,000 meters, making it one of the deepest-dwelling amphipods known to science.

Source: **PHY**

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/allicella-gigantea/>

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