

MARINE LIFE PROFILE: CANDYCANE SHRIMP

Scientific name: *Ligur uveae*
Distribution: Indo-Pacific, including Hawai'i
Size: to 3 inches
Diet: snails, organic detritus

These brightly-striped shrimp are rare in Hawai'i. They have only been found deep within coastal submarine tunnels (underwater lava tubes) more than 20 feet from the surface. Because of their unusual habitat, they are rarely seen and little is known about their biology and ecology in Hawai'i.

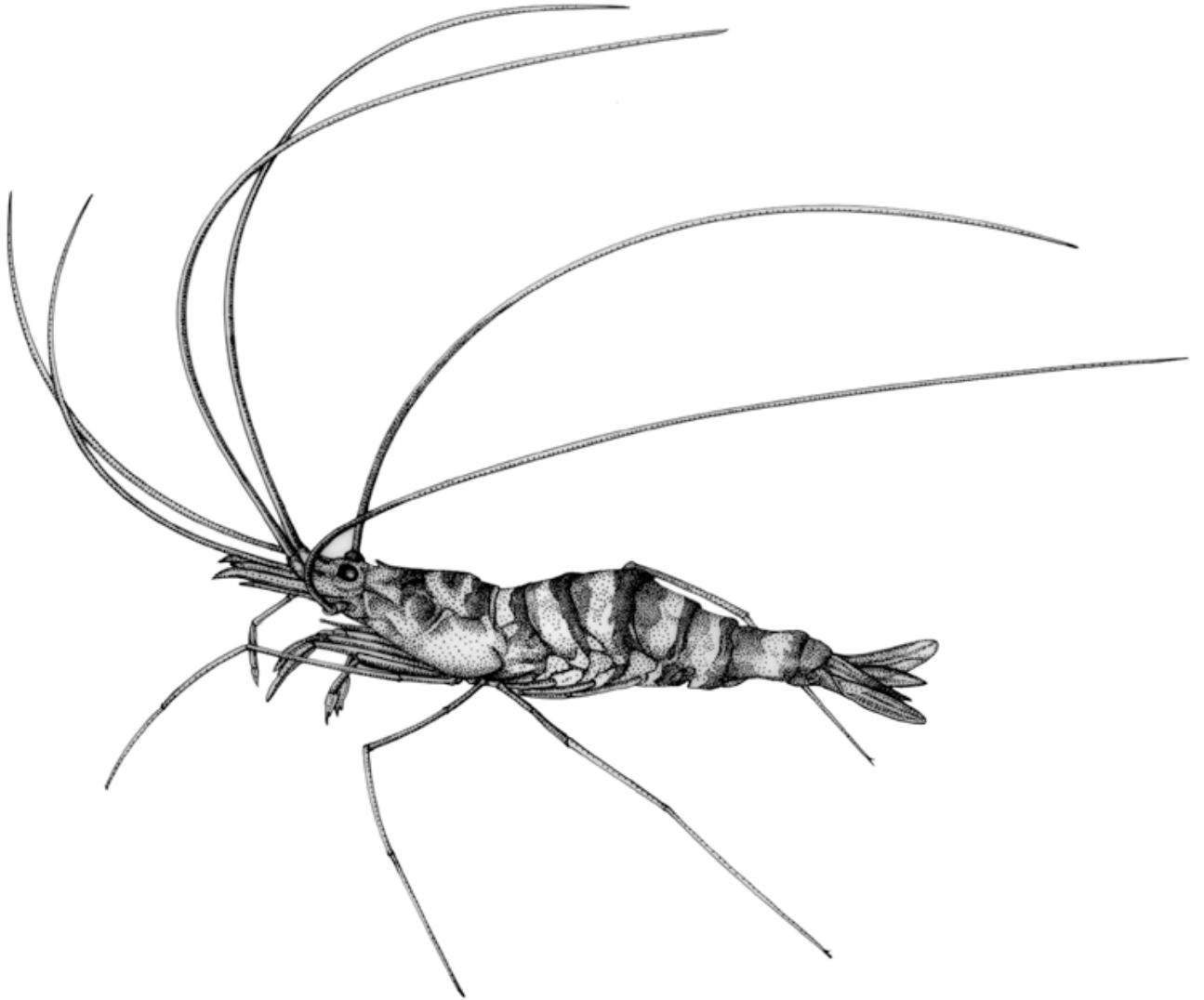
The same shrimp has been reported in coastal regions of relatively small rocky islands through the Pacific and Indian Oceans, from Hawai'i nearly to Africa. While they appear to be restricted to underwater tunnels in Hawaii, elsewhere these shrimp are found in shallower, more accessible habitats, including intertidal pools, rock fissures, and open caves that are flooded by the ocean or underground seawater. The shrimp have been observed feeding on snails in some locations, and appear to have a summer reproductive peak when larger females may carry up to 400 eggs under their abdomen.

The candycane shrimp is a member of the Family Hippolytidae which include the anemone or coral-dwelling shrimp, and the bright green and pink marbled reef shrimp (*Saron mamoratus*) commonly seen at night on Hawaiian reef flats. Candycane shrimp belong to a group of unrelated marine shrimp, including five different families, which are found only in marine cave and cave-like habitats. As a group, these shrimp are characterized by red body color, reduced eyes, preference for full seawater and temperatures no lower than 20 degrees C. Representatives of this group are found around the world in caves, pools, fissures, crevices, or wells in limestone or lava rock that is flooded by seawater.

Classification:

Phylum Arthropoda
Class Crustacea
Order Decapoda
Suborder Natantia
Section Caridea
Family Hippolytidae

CANDYCANE SHRIMP
Ligur uveae



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