

# Small Aquatic Crustaceans

## A CAROLINA™ CareSheet

### Immediate Care and Handling

As soon as your shipment arrives, open the shipping container to check your crustaceans. Loosen the lid from the shipping jar, but do not aerate the culture with a pipette or any other device. Keep the jar in a cool area (21° C/69° F) out of direct sunlight. Use the culture as soon as possible. Maintain any of these small crustaceans in an aquarium, as long as there are no fish to eat them. Sustained culturing is usually not preferred, but you can try the methods recommended for *Daphnia* (see the CareSheet for *Daphnia*). Commercial kits are available for culturing *Triops* and fairy shrimp.

Small crustaceans are among the most numerous animals in aquatic ecosystems. Some are carnivores, some herbivores, and some feed on detritus.

### FAQ's

*How can I tell male from female amphipods, copepods, isopods, or ostracods?*

During breeding season, this is easy with amphipods and copepods. Female amphipods have a dark brood pouch on the underside of their abdomens. Female copepods often have large external egg sacs. It is seldom possible to determine the sex of isopods and ostracods without detailed knowledge.

*Can I keep small crustaceans in an aquarium with fish?*

No. The fish will eat them. In fact, many aquarium hobbyists culture small crustaceans as live food for their fish.

*Can I refrigerate small crustaceans?*

We do not recommend it. You should use the culture as soon as possible after you receive it from us.

**Problems?** We hope not, but if so contact us. We want you to have a good experience.

**Orders and replacements:** 1-800-334-5551 then select Customer Service

**Technical Support and Questions:** [caresheets@carolina.com](mailto:caresheets@carolina.com)



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