



*Triops cancriformis*  
vive inalterado  
desde hace 220  
millones de años y  
se considera como  
**la especie animal  
viviende más  
antigua.**

Los óvulos que puedes adquirir aquí, proceden de un cultivo de laboratorio respetando las normas de protección de la naturaleza. *Triops cancriformis* es una especie escasa en toda Europa y se considera amenazada.

No pongas **nunca** ni los animales ni los huevos en espacios libres porque sería alterar la fauna y, por lo tanto, sancionable.

Un foro en internet para preguntas encontrarás en internet en

**[www.triops.at](http://www.triops.at)**



**TRIOPS.AT**  
**WWW.URZEITKREBSE.COM**

Te felicitamos por tu nuevo "animal doméstico" *Triops cancriformis*.

Atención: No olvides que es un ser viviente y no un juguete.

Trata a estos animales con respeto; al fin y al cabo se trata de la especie animal viviente más antigua del mundo. Sigue al pie de la letra todas las instrucciones para poder alegrarte viéndolos desarrollarse.

## ASÍ FUNCIONA:

### 1er° paso:

Compra un pequeño acuario o recipiente (de por lo menos 5 l.), un bidón con agua destilada o agua desmineralizada que puedes comprar por ejemplo en droguerías o gasolineras.

### 2° paso:

Limpia a fondo el acuario o recipiente (sin detergentes). Mete allí el contenido del sobrecito con los huevos y riégalos con agua destilada (de 2 a 3 litros). Pasados 5 días, echa otros 2 litros de agua.

ATENCIÓN: Las condiciones de mantenimiento de la especie europea *Triops cancriformis* **no** son las mismas que las de los *Triops longicaudatus* de EE.UU. que se consiguen con más facilidad. Las instrucciones de mantenimiento de esta especie no son, por lo tanto, transferibles:

No calientes de ninguna manera el acuario o recipiente. La temperatura ambiente (incluso bastante menos) es suficiente para los *Triops cancriformis*.

### 3er° paso:

Alumbra adecuadamente el acuario o recipiente: como mínimo necesitas una bombilla de 60 W.; también la luz directa del sol es apta siempre y cuando la temperatura no ascienda a más de 25°C. Sería conveniente tener una bomba de aire para que no se produzca una telilla de bacterias en la superficie del agua; si no la tienes, hay que remover el agua diariamente.

### 4° paso:

A los 2 días (como máximo 14), las larvas „Nauplius“ (de unos 0,2 mm.) salen de los huevos y se desarrollan rápidamente con cada muda de piel.

ATENCIÓN: Las larvas „Nauplius“ son tan pequeñas que, al principio, apenas se pueden ver. No te des por vencido y ten paciencia. Alimenta a los pequeños *Triops* con nutrición de peces normal (por ejemplo TetraMin®), deshazlo hasta que hayan alcanzado el tamaño de 1 cm.

En condiciones normales y entre 6 y 8 semanas, los *Triops cancriformis* pueden alcanzar un tamaño de hasta **11 cm!**

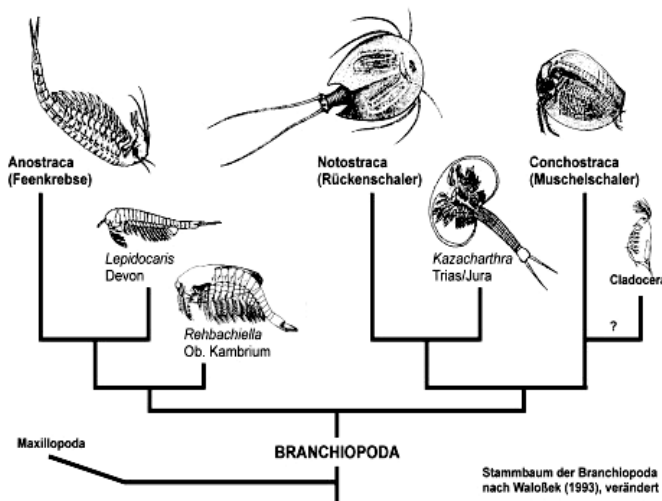
## "Primeval shrimps" in Austria: threats and conservation

### A story about successful protection efforts

The Austrian share of the Pannonian region, of the Danube as well as of the Morava, the westernmost steppe river of Europe, results in a remarkable diversity of large branchiopods within a small area. Ranges of species with holarctic, Eurasian, European, Pannonian, and southern European distribution overlap in Austria due to its specific geographic position. Sixteen large branchiopod species belonging to 14 genera have been reported from Austria. Large branchiopods are considered to be endangered throughout Europe. The primary threats are comparable to those threatening aquatic insects. Physical destruction due to agricultural development, changes of hydrologic conditions and urbanisation play a major role.

"Invertebrates traditionally attract very little conservation funding in relation to vertebrates, although they may play more subtle and significant ecological roles and monitor environmental change better" (New, 1993). Large branchiopods have proven to attract public interest as "primeval shrimps" as well as due to their extreme ecology, and thus may help to propagate the relevance of invertebrates for conservation biology. Recent public discussion on the biodiversity crisis and public awareness of the protection of endangered species may also favour effective conservation measures.

Reasons for local extinction of "primeval shrimps" are physical destruction due to agricultural development, changes in hydrologic conditions (dikes, hydroelectric power plants), and urbanisation (including litter disposal, road constructions and recreational measures). Until 1970, none of the Austrian large branchiopod occurrences was under legal protection. In 1982, the "Pulverturm" ponds near the city of Marchegg, the westernmost and single Austrian site of the fairy shrimp *Chirocephalus shadini*, became the world's first area declared as a nature reserve based solely on large branchiopod occurrence due to the initiative of one of Walter Hödl, University of Vienna. In 1994, the first Austrian National Park meeting the IUCN criteria, "Neusiedler See - Seewinkel", was inaugurated, and in 1996, the National Park "Donau-Auen" was declared. By these measures, sites of eight more large branchiopod species came under protection status.



Public awareness caused the accelerated legal procedure regarding the protection of the most diverse Austrian large branchiopod site: on June 19, 1996, the 7.5 ha "Blumengang" site, habitat of six large branchiopod species, among them the tadpole shrimp *Triops cancriformis* and all clam shrimp species known from Austria, was declared a nature reserve due to the initiative of Erich Eder, University of Vienna. Conservation proposals for three additional large branchiopod sites (seven species) are presently being reviewed by the responsible local authorities.

In the course of our efforts for large branchiopod conservation, a broad public audience was addressed by a brochure, more than 20 articles in local journals, and a popular science book. The book, out of print in 1998, was followed up by a revised and updated CD-ROM edition. Additionally, an exhibition ("primeval shrimps in Austria - living fossils in short-lived waters") was set up and shown in the museums of Marchegg (1996-1997) and Illmitz (1999), located in the main large branchiopod distribution areas of the Morava flood plains and Neusiedler See-Seewinkel, respectively. Media reactions followed with interviews for TV, radio programs, and newspapers. A natural history film on large branchiopods worldwide, including scenes from Austrian populations, supported our conservation intentions.

All Austrian meadows result from long-term use as grassland for cattle. Traditional cultivation of these semi-natural habitats is needed to preserve fauna and flora diversity. Due to changes in agricultural policy during the last decades, large meadow areas along the lower Morava river have become farmland. As a consequence, this development led to the physical destruction of large branchiopod habitats through filling up or drainage of wetlands. Aiming the protection of private property as natural reserves leads to conflicts with land owners. Without adequate information strategies, farmers may refuse conservation measures. Since 1987, the "Verein zur Erhaltung und Förderung ländlicher Lebensräume (Distelverein)" tries to ensure "wise use" or renaturation of valuable anthropogenic habitats along the Morava river, including large branchiopod habitats, by direct payments to the local farmers.

To determine conservation priorities, large branchiopod occurrences were ranked using standardized criteria. Local diversity was the decisive factor, prior to species rareness. Coincidentally, the rarest Austrian species always occur at multispecies habitats. Five sites out of the 10 highest ranked habitats are protected today. The final decision about the planned nature reserve "Triops-Senke" (largest occurrence of the tadpole shrimp *Triops cancriformis*) is expected within the next year and further conservation activities are planned.

(Abbreviated text, original by Erich Eder & Walter Hödl, published in "Modern approaches to the study of Crustacea", © 2002 by Kluwer Academic / Plenum Publishers, New York)

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