

*Heterocarpus ensifer ensifer* A. Milne-Edwards, 1881  
Armed nylon shrimp

Order Decapoda  
Suborder Pleocyemata  
Family Pandalidae

References used: Chace (1985)

**Diagnostic characters:** Rostrum long, tip distinctly overreaching the antennal scale, rostrum proportionately longer on juveniles than adults; 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> somites with midline spines, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> dorsally rounded and unarmed; 2<sup>nd</sup> pair of peropods unequal and dissimilar; antennal scale with large spine on outer margin, lateral margin of antennule scale dentate (serrated); strong longitudinal carinae on carapace originating directly behind antennal spine.

**Habitat:** 200 to 885 m.

**Range:** North Carolina to the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea; eastern Atlantic from Spain and Madeira to Angola; subspecies in the Pacific and Philippine-Indonesian Oceans.

**Remarks:** *Heterocarpus oryx* is also found in the Gulf of Mexico. It can be differentiated by a less prominent dorsal carinae not in line with the antennal spine. Return all *Heterocarpus* to the laboratory for identification verification.

