

## **Broad River Spiny Crayfish**

*Cambarus spicatus*

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### DESCRIPTION

#### **Taxonomy and Basic Description**

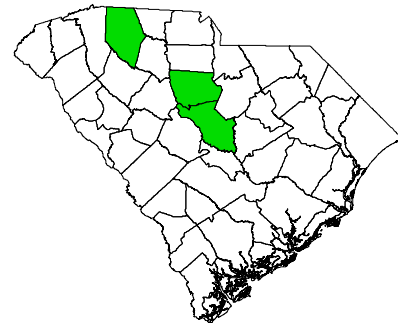
The Broad River spiny crayfish is gray-green with cream, pink, purple and brown highlights. The chelae are green with orange tips and a double row of tubercles (NCWRC 2005). The rostrum has marginal spines, and the chelae are broad with long fingers. The holotypic, allotypic and morphotypic specimens ranged from about 60 mm (2.4 inches) to 78 mm (3.1 inches) in length (Hobbs 1956a).

#### **Status**

Taylor et al. (1996) recommended that the Broad River spiny crayfish be listed as threatened in both North and South Carolina. The National Museum of Natural History considers it to be of special concern. NatureServe (2004) currently identifies this crayfish with a ranking of imperiled (S2) in North Carolina and vulnerable (S3) in South Carolina.

#### POPULATION DISTRIBUTION AND SIZE

The Broad River spiny crayfish is restricted to the Broad River basin. In South Carolina, it is found in Fairfield, Richland and Spartanburg Counties. It has a more restricted distribution in North Carolina. It is not very abundant at any of the sites at which it has been found (Eversole 1995).



#### HABITAT AND NATURAL COMMUNITY REQUIREMENTS

The streams in which the Broad River spiny crayfish has been found exhibit signs of flash flooding including sand deposits and log jams. This species is usually found in or beneath debris (Eversole 1995).

#### CHALLENGES

Due to the fact that the Broad River spiny crayfish is not abundant when collected, concern exists that its status may need to be upgraded. Because the Broad River spiny crayfish has a very restricted distribution and surveys for it are not recent, updated surveys are needed to determine if it is in decline, stable or increasing. Research on the life history and habitat preferences of this species is also greatly needed, because we currently lack this information.

## CONSERVATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

There are no significant conservation accomplishments for the Broad River spiny crayfish at this time.

## CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- Conduct additional surveys to determine the range and habitat preferences for the Broad River spiny crayfish.
- Based on surveys, investigate the need to upgrade the South Carolina special concern status for the Broad River spiny crayfish from S3 to S2.

## MEASURES OF SUCCESS

An increase or no net decrease in numbers of individuals collected in future surveys would be considered a sign of success.