

Pee Dee Lotic Crayfish

Procambarus lepidodactylus

Contributor: Jennifer Price

DESCRIPTION

Taxonomy and Basic Description

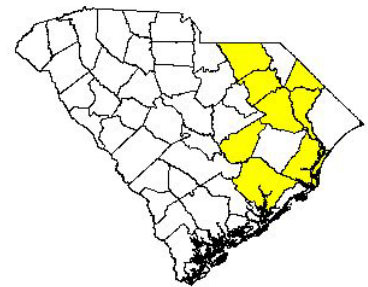
The Pee Dee lotic crayfish is a medium-sized crayfish approximately 55 mm (2.1 inches) in total length with angulate shoulders covered with acute spines. The body is laterally compressed. The chelae are elongate and the palms studded with squamous tubercles (Hobbs 1947a).

Status

NatureServe (2004) identifies the Pee Dee lotic crayfish with a ranking of apparently secure (S4) in South Carolina. However, more research on its distribution, population numbers, and habitat associations are needed to determine if this ranking is accurate.

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION AND SIZE

The Pee Dee lotic crayfish is apparently endemic to South Carolina, and has been found in the Pee Dee River basin in Chesterfield, Clarendon, Florence, Darlington, Dillon, Georgetown and Marion Counties (Smithsonian Museum of Natural History data set) and in abundance in the Cooper River in Berkeley County (J. Bulak, SCDNR, pers. comm.).



HABITAT AND NATURAL COMMUNITY REQUIREMENTS

The Pee Dee lotic crayfish tends to occur in clear, sandy-bottomed creeks of moderate gradient flowing through swampy areas, often among tree roots from along stream banks (NatureServe 2004).

CHALLENGES

It appears that the Pee Dee lotic crayfish has a limited and spotty distribution (A. Eversole, pers. comm.). Specific challenges to this species have not yet been identified.

CONSERVATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

There are no significant conservation accomplishments for the Pee Dee lotic crayfish at this time.

CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- Conduct research to determine the range, distribution and habitat requirements for the Pee Dee lotic crayfish.

MEASUREMENTS OF SUCCESS

Collection of data that better describes the range, distribution and habitat requirements for the Pee Dee lotic crayfish may be considered a measure of success.