

## ***Cambarus reflexus***

No Common Name

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### DESCRIPTION

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

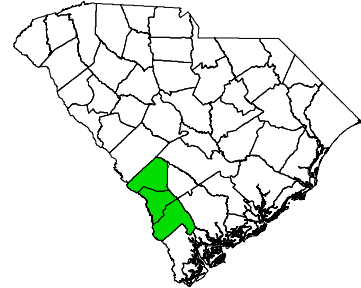
*Cambarus reflexus* has reddish-orange tan carapace a dark first abdominal segment, with progressively lighter segments approaching the pinkish tail, broad triangular orange-brown chelae and small eyes (Hobbs 1981).

#### **Status**

NatureServe (2004) currently identifies *C. reflexus* as imperiled (S2) in Georgia and vulnerable (S3) in South Carolina. The global ranking of apparently secure (G4) may need to be updated to reflect its rarity in those two states.

#### POPULATION DISTRIBUTION AND SIZE

In South Carolina, *C. reflexus* has been found only in Allendale, Hampton and Barnwell Counties. Hobbs (1989) also lists the Santee basin as part of its range, but its presence in this basin has not been confirmed by recent collections.



#### HABITAT AND NATURAL COMMUNITY REQUIREMENTS

*C. reflexus* is a very terrestrial obligate burrower, and is restricted to flatwood longleaf pine forests of the Savannah and Ogeechee River basins of the coastal plain in South Carolina and Georgia (A. Eversole, pers. comm.).

#### CHALLENGES

Further survey work is needed for *C. reflexus*. This species appears to be rare; with its limited distribution, *C. reflexus* warrants significant habitat protection.

#### CONSERVATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

There are no significant conservation accomplishments for *C. reflexus* at this time.

#### CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- Conduct surveys to determine the extent of the range of *C. reflexus*. In particular, focus appropriate habitat in the Santee basin, where the species was previously reported.
- Conduct research to determine the natural history and population status of *C. reflexus*.

- Determine the importance of alterations to the groundwater table to population stability of *C. reflexus*.
- Investigate the need to initiate the process to achieve South Carolina special concern status for *C. reflexus*.
- Develop and conduct landowner and general education programs that stress the unique nature of terrestrial burrowing crayfish and their importance in South Carolina.

## MEASURES OF SUCCESS

Collection of data that better describes the natural history and population status of *C. reflexus* may be considered a measure of success. Completion of groundwater investigations and determination of recommendations to protect red burrowing crayfish would also be considered a sign of success. Assessing participation in education programs would assist in measuring success of the programs.