

Ditch Fencing Crayfish

Faxonella clypeata

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DESCRIPTION

Taxonomy and Basic Description

The ditch fencing crayfish is very small and occurs in two distinctive color patterns: the first is olive tan to reddish brown with a pale cream tan stripe extending from rostrum to rear margin of carapace; the second pattern lacks the stripe and is pinkish brown. There are substantial differences in size between populations, but adults are generally 27 to 50 mm in total length (1.1 to 2 inches) (Hobbs 1981).

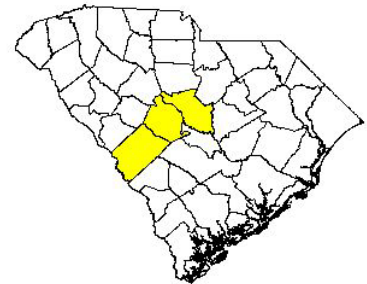


Status

NatureServe (2004) currently lists the ditch fencing crayfish with a ranking of potentially imperiled (S2?). It is more common in other states and has a global ranking of secure (G5).

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION AND SIZE

The ditch fencing crayfish is found in the midlands area of South Carolina including Richland, Lexington and Aiken Counties. It is also found outside of South Carolina, primarily in the Gulf Coast states.



HABITAT AND NATURAL COMMUNITY REQUIREMENTS

In Georgia, the ditch fencing crayfish is reported to inhabit slow moving streams, ditches, borrow pits, cypress ponds and vegetation in clear sandy-bottom streams (Hobbs 1981). Limited collections have been made in South Carolina.

CHALLENGES

We are unaware of specific challenges to the ditch fencing crayfish. We have included it as a species of concern because we do not currently understand its abundance in South Carolina.

CONSERVATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

There are no significant conservation accomplishments for the ditch fencing crayfish at this time.

CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- Conduct surveys to determine the range and habitat requirements of the ditch fencing crayfish.

MEASUREMENTS OF SUCCESS

Completion of a thorough survey of the drainages where the ditch fencing crayfish has been found and determination of its habitat requirements will be indicative of success.