

Black Mottled Crayfish

Procambarus enoplosternum

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DESCRIPTION

Taxonomy and Basic Description

There is a great deal of geographic variation in the coloration of *P. enoplosternum*. Patterns vary and may be charcoal or black and orange, cream, or yellowish-cream. Sometimes, it may have black stripes or cream-colored tubercles. The antennae may be cream or have pinkish irregular spots. The chelae are olive tan or cream to orange-tan with black tubercles (Hobbs 1981). This species may be confused with the Cedar Creek crayfish, *P. chacei*. Therefore, questions have been raised regarding the taxonomic distinctness between these two species (Hobbs 1981, 1989).

Status

NatureServe (2011) currently identifies *P. enoplosternum* as apparently secure/secure (S4/S5) in Georgia with a global ranking of apparently secure to secure (G4/G5). However, this species is not ranked in South Carolina. Taylor et al. (2007) listed the species as currently stable in Georgia and South Carolina.

POPULATION SIZE AND DISTRIBUTION

P. enoplosternum occurs from the Santee River Basin in Richland County, South Carolina to the Savannah, Ogeechee and Altamaha River Basins in eastern Georgia. It is believed to be fairly widespread in South Carolina, but due to taxonomic confusion between *P. enoplosternum* and *P. chacei*, the exact range is difficult to determine (Hobbs 1981).

HABITAT AND NATURAL COMMUNITY REQUIREMENTS

P. enoplosternum occurs in a variety of habitats including slow to moderately flowing streams and impoundments. It can be found in shaded streams often in dense beds of macrophytes or occasionally in shallow lentic habitats such as roadside ditches (Hobbs 1981). Little is known of its specific habitat requirements.

CHALLENGES

Because little is known of the specific habitat requirements specifically for *P. enoplosternum*, surveys should be conducted to determine these requirements. Additionally, taxonomic work is necessary to clarify the relationship between this species and *P. chacei*. Until more information is available, it is difficult to identify specific challenges to *P. enoplosternum*.

CONSERVATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

There are no significant conservation accomplishments for *P. enoplosternum* at this time.

CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- Conduct research to determine the habitat requirements for *P. enoplosternum*.
- Conduct taxonomic studies to determine the relationship between *P. enoplosternum* and *P. chacei*.

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

The collection of data that better describes the habitat requirements for *P. enoplosternum* may be considered a measure of success. Additionally, completion of taxonomic studies to determine the relationship between *P. enoplosternum* and *P. chacei* would be considered a sign of success.

LITERATURE CITED

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