

## Brushnose Crayfish

### *Procambarus pubescens*

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## DESCRIPTION

### Taxonomy and Basic Description

*Procambarus pubescens* is found in two color phases. One is predominantly blue, grey and black; and the other is brown, tan, orange, and black with a median longitudinal orange-tan stripe and black spots. The rostrum has marginal spines, and the chelipeds have tubercles (Hobbs 1981).

### Status

NatureServe (2011) currently identifies this species as ranked of apparently secure to secure (S4/S5) in Georgia and potentially imperiled (S3?) in South Carolina. Taylor et al. (2007) listed the Brushnose Crayfish as currently stable in Georgia and South Carolina.

## POPULATION SIZE AND DISTRIBUTION

The Brushnose Crayfish is found in the Coastal Plain and the eastern edge of the Piedmont Plateau in the Savannah River Basin of South Carolina and Georgia. In South Carolina, it is documented in Edgefield, Aiken, and Barnwell counties and is expected to occur at least as far south as Hampton County (A. Eversole pers. comm., SCDNR data). This species is abundant in aquatic plant beds in Stevens Creek Reservoir (W. Poly pers. obs.). It is a peripheral species in South Carolina.



## HABITAT AND NATURAL COMMUNITY REQUIREMENTS

*P. pubescens* has been found in a variety of streams in the Coastal Plain, ranging from very small, shallow streams to small rivers. It can be found in both densely vegetated streams and well-shaded streams lacking in vegetation. Some of the streams in which it has been found are slow-flowing with muddy bottoms, while others have sandy or rocky substrates and are rapidly flowing (Hobbs 1947b).

## CHALLENGES

Little is known about the Brushnose Crayfish. Survey work and research on its habitat association and life history are needed.

## CONSERVATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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

## CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- Conduct research to determine the habitat requirements and life history for *P. pubescens*.

## MEASURES OF SUCCESS

The collection of data that better describes the habitat requirements and life history of *P. pubescens* may be considered a measure of success.

## LITERATURE CITED

- Hobbs, H.H. Jr. 1981. The Crayfishes of Georgia. Smithsonian Contributions to Zoology. 318. 549 pp.
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- Taylor, C.A., G.A. Schuster, J.E. Cooper, R.J. DiStefano, A.G. Eversole, P. Hamr, H.H. Hobbs III, H.W. Robison, C.E. Skelton, and R.F. Thoma 2007. Reassessment of the Conservation Status of Crayfishes of the United States and Canada after 10+ Years of Increased Awareness. Fisheries. 32(8):372–389.