

Carolina Needlenose Crayfish

Cambarus aldermanorum

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DESCRIPTION

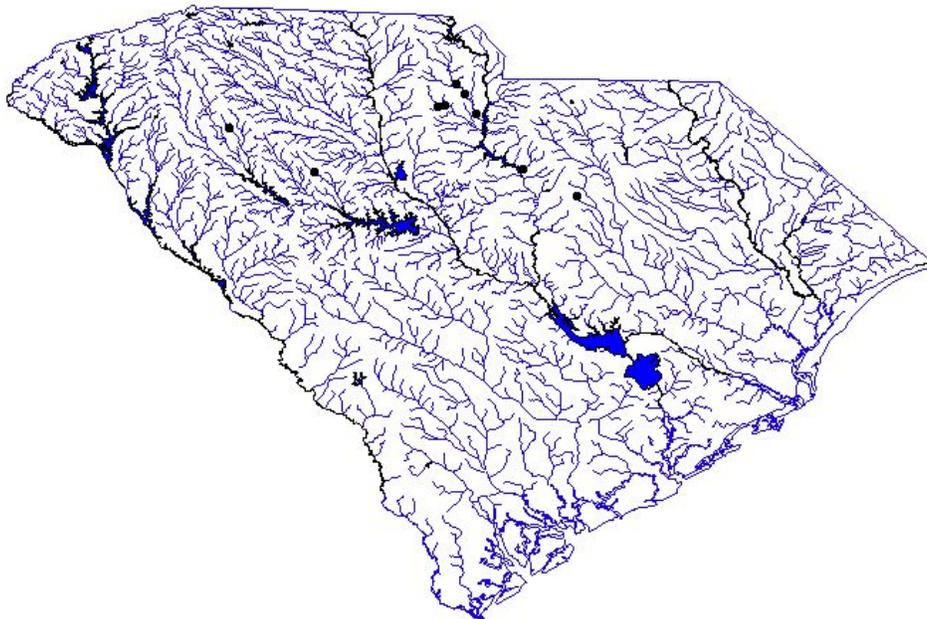
Taxonomy and Basic Description

The Needlenose Crayfish carapace and abdomen are olivaceous or green-gray with bluish highlights. The rostrum is lanceolate, long, needle-shaped, and not delineated by tubercles or spines (Cooper and Price 2010). The chelae fingers are gaped, with a strong longitudinal ridge on the dorsal surface of both fingers. A double row of tubercles lines the mesial margin of the palm and the fingertips are yellowish-cream color.

Status

The Carolina Needlenose Crayfish, a newly described species, is tentatively listed as of moderate concern in South Carolina.

POPULATION SIZE AND DISTRIBUTION



The Carolina Needlenose Crayfish occurs in the Catawba and Saluda River Basins in South Carolina (Cooper and Price 2010) and in the Catawba River Basin in North Carolina (Cooper

and Russ 2013). In South Carolina, it was found in Chester, Kershaw, Laurens, and Newberry Counties. Current distribution records also indicate populations in Burke and Caldwell Counties in North Carolina. Based on collection numbers, it may not be a rare species at collection sites.

HABITAT AND NATURAL COMMUNITY REQUIREMENTS

The water courses in which the Carolina Needlenose Crayfish has been found vary from lower order to higher order streams. Crayfish were frequently collected under or near rock outcrops, woody debris, and other habitat structure.

CHALLENGES

Due to the fact that the Carolina Needlenose Crayfish is a recently described species, basic survey and collection research is needed to gain a better understanding of its distribution and relative abundance at collection sites. Also, detailed description of the collection sites and habitat preferences of this species is needed.

CONSERVATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

There are no significant conservation accomplishments specifically for the Carolina Needlenose Crayfish at this time.

CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- Conduct surveys to determine the range, relative abundance, and habitat preferences of the Carolina Needlenose Crayfish.
- Based on surveys, investigate the need to upgrade the status of the Carolina Needlenose Crayfish.

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

An increase or no net decrease in the range of the distribution of the species collected in future surveys would be considered a sign of success.

LITERATURE CITED

- Cooper, J.E. and J. E. Price. 2010. A new spinose crayfish of the genus *Cambarus*, subgenus *Puncticambarus* (Decapoda: Cambaridae), from South Carolina. Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington. 123:335-344.
- Cooper, J. E. and W. T. Russ. 2013. Four crayfishes (Decapoda: Cambaridae) new to the North Carolina fauna, with notes on other species in the state. Journal of the North Carolina Academy of Science 129:53-57.