

## Coastal Plain Crayfish

*Procambarus ancylus*

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### DESCRIPTION

#### Taxonomy and Basic Description

The Coastal Plain Crayfish is a small and cylindrical in shape. It is reddish-brown or chocolate in color with a narrow red-orange dorsal stripe and slender chelae (NCWRC 2005).



#### Status

NatureServe (2011) currently identifies the Coastal Plain Crayfish as vulnerable (S3) in North Carolina and apparently secure/secure (S4/S5) in South Carolina. The Coastal Plain Crayfish was listed as currently stable by Taylor et al. (2007).



### POPULATION SIZE AND DISTRIBUTION

The Coastal Plain Crayfish is only found in the Coastal Plain of the Carolinas. In South Carolina, it is found in 13 Coastal Plain counties. It is less widespread in North Carolina.

### HABITAT AND NATURAL COMMUNITY REQUIREMENTS

The Coastal Plain Crayfish is found in both lentic and lotic waters and burrows (Hobbs 1989).

### CHALLENGES

Because so little is known about the Coastal Plain Crayfish, this species is in need of surveys, research on habitat associations, and taxonomic investigations. John Cooper with the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences is currently investigating the taxonomy of the Coastal Plain Crayfish.

### CONSERVATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Limited life history observations on egg number and size were reported by Poly (2007).

## CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- Conduct targeted surveys to determine the range and distribution of the Coastal Plain Crayfish. During these surveys, collect data about habitat requirements.
- Cooperate with the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences to determine whether additional taxonomic studies are necessary.

## MEASURES OF SUCCESS

Collection of data that better describes the range and distribution of the Coastal Plain Crayfish may be considered a measure of success.

## LITERATURE CITED

- Hobbs, H.H. Jr. 1989. An Illustrated Checklist of the American Crayfishes (Decapoda: Astacidae, Cambaridae, and Parastacidae). Smithsonian Contributions to Zoology. 480. 236 pp.
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