

Pee Dee Lotic Crayfish

Procambarus lepidodactylus

Contributor (2005): Jennifer Price (SCDNR)

Reviewed and Edited (2012): William Poly (SCDNR)

DESCRIPTION

Taxonomy and Basic Description

The Pee Dee Lotic Crayfish is a medium-sized crayfish, approximately 55 mm (2.1 in.) in total length with angulate shoulders covered with acute spines. The body is laterally compressed. The chelae are elongate and the palms studded with squamous tubercles (Hobbs 1947a).

Status

NatureServe (2011) identifies the Pee Dee Lotic Crayfish as ranked apparently secure (S4) in South Carolina. Taylor et al. (2007) listed the species as currently stable.

POPULATION SIZE AND DISTRIBUTION

The Pee Dee Lotic Crayfish is apparently endemic to South Carolina and has been found in the Pee Dee River Basin in Chesterfield, Clarendon, Florence, Darlington, Dillon, Georgetown, Sumter, Kershaw, and Marion counties (Smithsonian Museum of Natural History data set) and in abundance in the Cooper River in Berkeley County (J. Bulak, SCDNR, pers. comm.). However, more research on its distribution, population numbers, and habitat associations are needed to determine if this ranking is accurate.



HABITAT AND NATURAL COMMUNITY REQUIREMENTS

The Pee Dee Lotic Crayfish tends to occur in clear, sandy-bottomed creeks of moderate gradient flowing through swampy areas, often among tree roots along stream banks (NatureServe 2011).

CHALLENGES

It appears that the Pee Dee Lotic Crayfish has a limited and spotty distribution (A. Eversole, pers. comm.). Taylor et al. (2007) listed the Pee Dee Lotic Crayfish as a species complex that is under study.

CONSERVATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In the 2006-2011 Stream Survey, 14 occurrences of this crayfish species were found at 9 sites in Sumter and Kershaw counties (A. Eversole, pers. comm.).

CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- Conduct research to determine the range, distribution, and habitat requirements for the Pee Dee Lotic Crayfish.

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

Collection of data that better describes the range, distribution, and habitat requirements for the Pee Dee Lotic Crayfish may be considered a measure of success.

LITERATURE CITED

Hobbs, H.. Jr. 1947a. A key to the crayfishes of the Pictus subgroup of the genus *Procambarus*, with the description of a new species from South Carolina. *The Florida Entomologist*. 3(3):25-31.

NatureServe. 2011. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 7.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>.

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.