

## Santee Crayfish

### *Procambarus blandingii*

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## DESCRIPTION

### Taxonomy and Basic Description

The Santee Crayfish is large and cylindrical in shape. It is tan, brown, and/or green with dark speckles or light mottling and slender chelae (NCWRC 2005).

### Status

NatureServe (2011) currently identifies the Santee Crayfish with a ranking of vulnerable/ apparently secure (S3/S4) in North Carolina and apparently secure (S4) in South Carolina. The Santee Crayfish is considered to be currently stable in North and South Carolina (Taylor et al. 2007).

## POPULATION SIZE AND DISTRIBUTION

The Santee Crayfish is restricted to the Carolinas and found primarily in lentic waters of the Coastal Plain. Its range extends from the Lumber-Little Pee Dee River Basin in North Carolina to the Wateree-Santee River Basin in South Carolina. It is difficult to determine a detailed range map for this species, because *Procambarus blandingii* has often been confused with *P. acutus* and it is not known which records are identified correctly.

## HABITAT AND NATURAL COMMUNITY REQUIREMENTS

The Santee Crayfish can be found in lentic and slow moving sections of lotic streams. It is usually associated with vegetation or woody debris when found in swamps (NCWRC 2005).

## CHALLENGES

Little is known about the Santee Crayfish. Further research is needed on its range, population densities, and habitat associations.

## CONSERVATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Collections made during the South Carolina Stream Assessment (2006–2011) indicate that the Santee Crayfish is fairly common in the Coastal Plain but little is known about its life history.

## CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- Conduct research to determine the range, population densities, and habitat associations for the Santee Crayfish.
- Conduct taxonomic and genetic research comparing *P. blandingii* and the more common *P. acutus*.

## MEASURES OF SUCCESS

The collection of data that better describes the range, population densities, and habitat associations for the Santee Crayfish may be considered measures of success.

## LITERATURE CITED

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

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