

Shaggy Crayfish

Procambarus hirsutus

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DESCRIPTION

Taxonomy and Basic Description

The body of *Procambarus hirsutus* is dark brown with bright orange mottlings. The chelae are brownish-orange with black tubercles on the upper surface, and lighter tubercles on the lower surface. The rostrum of this species has marginal spines and is covered in the dense hairs at the base of the acumen that give the species its name: “hirsutus” means “shaggy” in Latin. The holotypic male measured 68.4 mm (2.7 in.) in length, while the allotypic female and morphotypic male are slightly smaller (Hobbs 1958).

Status

NatureServe (2011) identifies *P. hirsutus* with a rank of apparently secure (S4) in South Carolina, but more information is needed to determine if this ranking is appropriate. Taylor et al. (2007) considered the species to be currently stable in South Carolina.

POPULATION SIZE AND DISTRIBUTION

P. hirsutus is endemic to South Carolina and has been found in the Santee, Edisto, Salkahatchie and Savannah River Basins in Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun, Lexington, Colleton, Orangeburg, and Hampton Counties (Hobbs 1958, SCDNR stream assessment data). During stream surveys (2006–2011) it was abundant at about half of the sites where it occurred.



HABITAT AND NATURAL COMMUNITY REQUIREMENTS

Procambarus hirsutus is found in clear streams with good flow (Hobbs 1989, W. Poly pers. obs.). Little else is known about its habitat requirements.

CHALLENGES

Little is known about *P. hirsutus*, and research is needed on all aspects of its biology before its conservation status can be determined. The restricted range of this species is cause for some concern.

CONSERVATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Collections of Shaggy Crayfish were made during the South Carolina Stream Assessment (2006–2011), but the known distribution was extended into only one additional county.

CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- Conduct research to determine the range, distribution and habitat requirements for *P. hirsutus*.

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

The collection of data that better describes the range, distribution, and habitat requirements for *P. hirsutus* may be considered a measure of success.

LITERATURE CITED

- Hobbs, H.H. Jr. 1958. Two new crayfishes of the genus *Procambarus* from South Carolina and Georgia. *Notulae Naturae of The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia*. 307:10 pages, figures 1-26.
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