

Rocky River Crayfish

Cambarus hobbsorum

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DESCRIPTION

Taxonomy and Basic Description

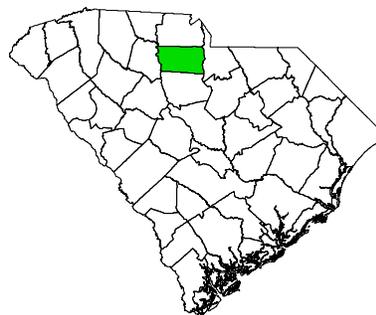
The body of the Rocky River crayfish is dorsoventrally flattened. The thoracic section has punctations and granulations dorsally and cobbled tubercles laterally. Its color is variable but is generally in shades of olive, green, blue-green and black and is highlighted with tan, white or orangish tubercles. The tips of fingers are orange, tan, or yellowish, the palms of its chelae are inflated and the dorsal surfaces of palms have tubercles (NCWRC 2005). Adult specimens range in length from approximately 54 mm (2.2 inches) to 96 mm (3.9 inches) in length (Cooper 2001).

Status

The Rocky River crayfish is currently identified in NatureServe (2005) with a global status of vulnerable/apparently secure (G3/G4) and a status of vulnerable/apparently secure (S3/S4) in North Carolina. NatureServe (2005) does not currently identify this crayfish as part of South Carolina's fauna. It may actually be more widespread in both North and South Carolina than the known distribution indicates (J. Cooper, NC Museum of Natural Sciences, pers. comm.). As of now, its status is undetermined.

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION AND SIZE

The Rocky River crayfish has been found in Fishing Creek in the Catawba River basin in Chester County, South Carolina. In North Carolina, it is known from the middle Yadkin-Pee Dee and upper Cape Fear River basins. It has been recently described (Cooper 2001) and new records of its occurrence are frequently being collected.



HABITAT AND NATURAL COMMUNITY REQUIREMENTS

Little is known about the habitat requirements of the rocky river crayfish, but the one location at which it has been found in South Carolina, was a 0.5 m (1.6 feet) deep section of Fishing Creek containing pools and riffles. The substrate was sand and gravel; the stream had a stable bank with a moderately wide forested riparian buffer zone (T. Savidge, pers. comm., e-mail message February 2005).

CHALLENGES

We are not aware of specific threats to the Rocky River crayfish. It is a species of concern because little is known about it, and few collections have been made, indicating that it may have a very restricted distribution.

CONSERVATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

There are no significant conservation accomplishments for the Rocky River crayfish at this time.

CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- Conduct targeted surveys to determine the distribution and habitat requirements of the newly described Rocky River crayfish.

MEASUREMENTS OF SUCCESS

Documented evidence of additional populations of Rocky River crayfish may be considered a measure of success.