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Edisto Crayfish

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Edisto Crayfish

Procambarus ancylus

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DESCRIPTION

Taxonomy and Basic Description

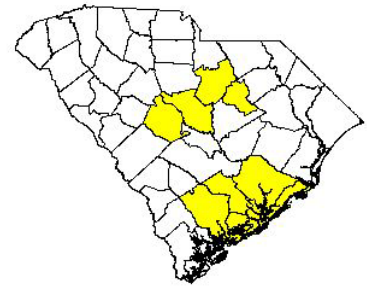
The Edisto crayfish is a small and cylindrical in shape. It is reddish brown or chocolate in color with a narrow red-orange dorsal stripe and slender chelae (NCWRC 2005).

Status

NatureServe (2004) currently identifies the Edisto crayfish as vulnerable (S3) in North Carolina and apparently secure (S4) in South Carolina.

POPULATION DISTRIBUTION AND SIZE

The Edisto crayfish is found only in the coastal plain of the Carolinas. In South Carolina, it is found in Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Kershaw, Lee, Lexington and Richland Counties. It is less widespread in North Carolina.



HABITAT AND NATURAL COMMUNITY REQUIREMENTS

The Edisto crayfish is found in both lentic and lotic waters and burrows (Hobbs 1989).

CHALLENGES

Because so little is known about the Edisto 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 Edisto crayfish.

CONSERVATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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

CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- Conduct targeted surveys to determine the range and distribution of the Edisto 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 Edisto crayfish may be considered a measure of success.