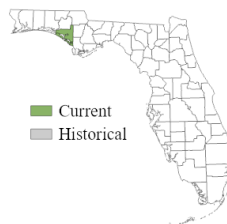


PANAMA CITY CRAYFISH

Procambarus econfinae



Order: Decapoda
Family: Cambaridae
FNAI Ranks: G1G2/S1S2
U.S. Status: Threatened
FL Status: Threatened

Description: A small crayfish (to about 2 in.= 48 mm total length) with a distinctive brown stripe down middle of back, and spots on sides. Specific identification is based on adult male reproductive structures and other body structures and ornamentation. The rostrum (forward projection of shell in front of eyes) is broadly lanceolate and lacks lateral spines, and the areola (rear portion of carapace) is broad and short. In reproductive (form I) males, the palm of the chela (claw) is naked, not bearded, along its inner margin.

Similar Species: The back stripe and spots are shared locally by only one other crayfish, the closely related *Procambarus apalachicola*. Distinguishing this species from *P. econfinae* requires examination by an expert.

Habitat: In dry periods, the species inhabits simple burrows that it constructs in wet pine flatwoods soils; burrows are marked by short chimneys of stacked mud balls. During times of higher water, crayfish leave the burrows and inhabit the flooded flatwoods as well as adjacent drainage ditches.

Seasonal Occurrence: Occupies sites year-round, but its seasonal presence above ground is tied to periods of high water. Females are known to reproduce in late spring and early summer.

Florida Distribution: Known only from two localities on the small peninsula on which Panama City, Bay County, is located.

Range-wide Distribution: Same as Florida distribution.

Conservation Status: Wetland drainage and urban and residential development have greatly reduced and continue to threaten the remaining habitat of this species.

Panama City Crayfish

Procambarus econfinae

Protection and Management: Do not drain any wet flatwoods habitat that is known to or which may harbor this species.

References: Deyrup and Franz (eds.) 1994, Hobbs 1942, Keppner and Keppner 2000.



© Barry Mansell