

## Ditch Fencing Crayfish

*Faxonella clypeata*

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### DESCRIPTION

#### Taxonomy and Basic Description

The Ditch Fencing Crayfish is very small and occurs in 2 distinctive color patterns: the first is olive tan to reddish brown with a pale creamy-tan stripe extending from rostrum to rear the margin of carapace; the second pattern lacks the stripe and is pinkish-brown. There are substantial differences in size between populations, but adults are generally 27 to 50 mm (1.1 to 2 in.) in total length (Hobbs 1981).

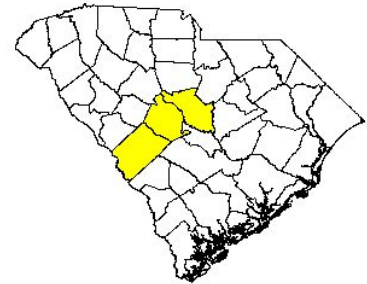


#### Status

NatureServe (2011) currently lists the Ditch Fencing Crayfish with a ranking of potentially imperiled (S2?). It is more common in other states and has a global ranking of secure (G5). It was listed as currently stable by Taylor et al. (2007).

#### POPULATION SIZE AND DISTRIBUTION

The Ditch Fencing Crayfish is found in the midlands area of South Carolina including Richland, Lexington, and Aiken Counties. It also ranges from Missouri to Texas and through the Gulf Coast states to South Carolina, occurring primarily in the Coastal Plain (Hobbs 1981, 1989, Taylor et al. 2007).



#### HABITAT AND NATURAL COMMUNITY REQUIREMENTS

In Georgia, the Ditch Fencing Crayfish is reported to inhabit slow moving streams, ditches, borrow pits, cypress ponds, and vegetation in clear, sandy-bottom streams (Hobbs 1981). Limited collections have been made in South Carolina.

#### CHALLENGES

We are unaware of specific challenges to the Ditch Fencing Crayfish. We have included it as a species of concern because there is little information on its abundance and distribution in South Carolina.

## CONSERVATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

There are no significant conservation accomplishments specifically for the Ditch Fencing Crayfish at this time.

## CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- Conduct surveys to determine the range and habitat requirements of the Ditch Fencing Crayfish.

## MEASURES OF SUCCESS

The completion of a thorough survey of the drainages where the Ditch Fencing Crayfish has been found and the determination of its habitat requirements will be indicative of success.

## LITERATURE CITED

- Hobbs, H.H. Jr. 1981. The Crayfishes of Georgia. Smithsonian Contributions to Zoology. 318. 549 pp.
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