



Rare Animals of Louisiana

Calcasieu Painted Crawfish

Orconectes blacki

Rarity Rank: S2/G2

Identification:

- Color is olive to brown
- Crimson highlights just behind the eyes, on the central leg joints, and on the posterior margins of the abdominal segments including the tail.
- Claws relatively long and stout.
- The fingers on the claws go from brown or greenish brown at the base to blue, cream or yellow, and red.



Taxonomic comments: Hybrids with *O. hathawayi* have been found in Allen, Rapides, and Vernon parishes.

Habitat: Small to medium size streams with sand-mud bottoms

Food habits: Crawfish in general will eat just about anything including, plants, detritus, small live animals, and carrion.

Reproduction: Mating takes place in the fall and possibly winter while eggs can be observed in March and probably hatch in May.

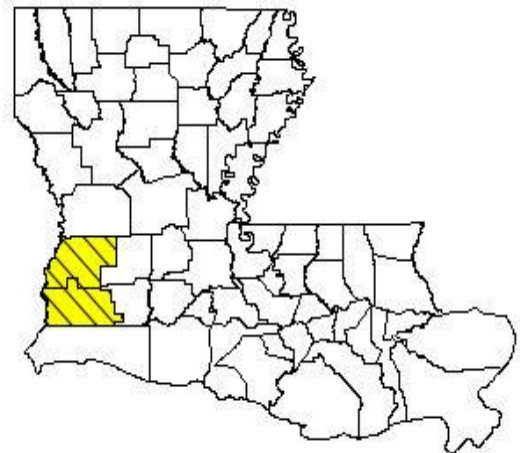
Threats:

- Degredation or alteration of habitat.
- Chemical pollution.
- Sensitive because of a limited distribution.

Beneficial Management Practices:

- Prevent erosion and siltation
- Follow Best Management Practices for Streamside Management Zones, possibly increasing width.
- Prevent vehicular traffic across streams

U. S. Range: Endemic to LA; has only been found in six locations in Beauregard and Calcasieu parishes.





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- Walls, J. G. 1985. Distribution and Natural History of the Crawfish *Orconectes difficilis* (Decapoda: Astacidae) in Louisiana. The Southwestern Naturalist 30(2): 189-194.