Kisatchie painted crawfish
Orconectes maletae

**Rarity Rank:** S2/G2

**Identification:**
- A member of the painted crawfish group—with red, white (or yellow or cream), and blue markings.
- Cephalothorax to ca. 40 mm long. Rostrum is acuminate with lateral spines.
- Areola is closed.
- Chelae are relatively long and stout.
- Apex of the first pleopod of form I males are relatively long, slender and distinctly curved.
- Color pattern is olive to brown with crimson highlights on the postorbital ridges, the central joints of the pereiopods, and to a lesser extent the posterior margins of the abdominal segments, including the uropods.
- Colors of the fingers of the chelae are, successively from base to tips, brown or greenish brown, blue, cream or yellow and red.
- Essentially identical to *O. blacki* except that the projections of the apex of the first pleopod of form I males are relatively long, slender and distinctly curved.

**Taxonomic comments:** Medium to large genus with 21+ species; species name honors Maleta Walls, the wife of LNHP contractor, Jerry Walls.

**Habitat:** Small streams, primarily the Kisatchie Bayou drainage in Natchitoches Parish and Bayou Teche watershed in Rapides Parish

**Food habits:** Plants and carrion

**Reproduction:**
- Male deposits sperm in external receptacle on underside of female, who, in turn, fertilizes eggs as they are excreted.
- Eggs and young are held under female abdomen amongst pleopods (swimming legs) until they are large enough to crawl and swim about on their own.

**Threats:**
- Conversion of forests to agricultural uses
- Practices that lead to increased sediment loads in streams
- Practices that lead to loss of shade in the water
- Impoundments
Beneficial Management Practices:
- BMPs for streamside management zones
- Shade retention

U. S. Range: LA, TX

References:
