

# Rare Animals of Louisiana

## Flatwoods Digger

*Fallicambarus oryktes*

**Rarity Rank:** S2S3/G4

	1	2	3	4	5
State					
Global					
	imperiled		rare		secure



Photo by Jerry Walls

### Identification:

- Small (2 in) burrowing crawfish with a large carapace and a small, narrow abdomen
- Areola long and closed, rostrum rounded
- Claws large (especially in males), rather triangular, inner edge of the fixed finger scooped out and bearing two large white teeth
- Bearded area inside the fingers
- Adults tend to be blackish or grayish brown with outer edge of the claws white
- Claws often bluish above
- Some adults are blue-gray

### Habitat:

- The flatwoods digger is a primary burrower, and therefore rarely leaves its burrow
- Primary burrowers generally choose wet places such as meadows where the surface remains dry for extended periods of time
- Can also burrow in shallow pools and roadside ditches
- Prefers well-drained pineland soils
- May occur in colonies; patchily distributed
- Chimneys are often closed domes about 3 in high

### Food habits:

Crawfish diet generally consists of plants, detritus, small live animals and carrion

### Range:

AL, LA, MS

### Reproduction:

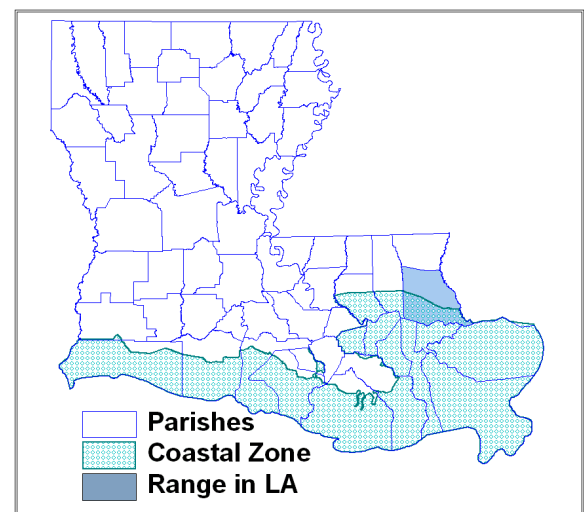
No specific reproduction information available

### Threats:

Loss of habitat to urban development

### Beneficial Management Practices:

- Protect habitat areas from disturbances such as water pollution and siltation
- Protect vegetation around habitat areas such as ditches



Range based on occurrences in Natural Heritage database

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## *LA River Basins:*

Pearl, Pontchartrain

## *References:*

NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. 2002. Version 1.6 . Arlington, Virginia, USA: NatureServe. Available: <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>. (Accessed: January 3, 2003).