

Marbled crayfish

Procambarus virginalis

Description

Originated in the pet trade industry. Does not currently exist anywhere in Michigan or in the United States as a wild native population. This species is a prohibited species in the state of Michigan as of April 2020.

Identification

Medium-sized crayfish, ranging from 4-5 in. in length. Marbled color pattern visible on carapace (back). Coloring is usually olive to dark brown but can range from tan to reddish to blue. Claws are slender or narrow.

Habitat

Established populations have been found in Germany, Austria, Italy, the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Japan and Madagascar. Can be found in streams, rivers, ditches, ponds, wetlands and retention basins.

Reproduction

Capable of reproducing by self-cloning; all





individuals are female and have the ability to lay up to 700 unfertilized eggs that develop into genetically identical offspring.

Impact

Aggressive behavior; they feed on algae, plants, snails, and amphibians and can out-compete native species including fish. Their burrowing can destabilize banks and shorelines.

Similar

Native calico crayfish (*Orconectes immunis*), which are smaller (2-3.5") and grayish-green in color as well as the native white river crayfish (*Procambarus acutus*), which is larger and has more rounded claws.

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Have not been identified in public waters but were available in the pet trade. Owners of marbled crayfish should humanely dispose of any specimens and avoid flushing them down drains or toilets. Please see RIPPLE for more information.

Credits

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