

Red Swamp Crayfish



The red swamp burrowing behavior destroys other important wildlife habitat as well. Red swamp crayfish feed on young rice shoots (taking a further toll on rice crops) and other plants, insect larvae, tadpoles, snails, and newt larvae. They are not affected by newt toxins, which ward off predation by native crayfish. This makes native newts particularly susceptible to predation by this introduced crayfish, and in fact they are blamed for declines in newt populations in some areas.

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Distinguishing Characteristics

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Life History & Other Notes

Although it is highly prized in its native Louisiana, this aggressive, territorial crayfish is considered an agricultural pest in California. Unlike signal crayfish, the red swamp crayfish thrives in the rice fields of the Central Valley, making its home by burrowing 24 to 40 inches into the mud banks of the rice checks and levees. They can seriously weaken earthen banks, increasing erosion. This crayfish's

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SCIENTIFIC NAME

Procambarus clarkii

OTHER COMMON NAMES

Louisiana crawdad

RANGE & HABITAT

South & Central California in slower streams & creeks, irrigation canals, rice paddies

LENGTH

To 5 in.

DIET/SUGGESTED BAIT

*Feeds on plants, small invertebrates & amphibians
Bait traps or lines with liver, bacon, fish, canned cat or dog food*