



Signal crayfish

(*Pacifastacus leniusculus*)

Originated in the Northwest of the United States. Introduced in France in the 1970s for commercial farming tests.

Description

- The maximum size is approximately 180 millimetres
- The animals tend to be light brown in colour
- Cephalothorax with a smooth surface (part 1 in Figure 1)
- Rostrum with parallel edges (part 2 in Figure 1)
- Large, smooth claws:
 - with a whitish or bluish spot at the joint of the claws (part 3 in Figure 2)
 - with a red underside

Ecology and reproduction

- Habitats vary significantly, ranging from small streams and large rivers to ponds and lakes
- It digs tunnels into banks
- It is active primarily during the night
- Omnivorous:
 - adults consume primarily plants
 - juveniles consume primarily other animals
- Sexual maturity is reached between 12 and 24 months
- Reproduction occurs once per year (150 to 400 eggs)

Documentation

- Species fact sheet drafted by the University of Metz: http://www.invabio.univ-metz.fr/z_pacifastacus_leniusculus.htm
- Lorraine fishing federations. 2012. Crayfish identification guide for continental France. 28 pp.
- Nepveu C. 2002. Les espèces animales et végétales susceptibles de proliférer dans les milieux aquatiques et subaquatiques - Fiches espèces animales (Les espèces exotiques). Agence de l'eau Artois-Picardie. 98 pp.

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Classification

Order	Decapoda
Family	Astacidae
Genus	<i>Pacifastacus</i>
Species	<i>P. leniusculus</i> (Dana, 1852)



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