



Red swamp crayfish

(*Procambarus clarkii*)

Originated in Northern Mexico and southern sections of the United States. Introduced in France in 1976 for human consumption.

Description

- The maximum size is approximately 150 millimetres
- Generally red in colour, but can also range from grey to blue
- Cephalothorax with a rough surface (part 1 in Figure 1)
- Incurved rostrum with converging edges (part 2 in Figure 1)
- Inward-facing points (parts 1 and 2 in Figure 1), spurs on the proximal segment above the claws (part 3 in Figure 3)
- Red tubercles on the large claws (part 4 in Figure 3)

Ecology and reproduction

- Common habitats are rivers, lakes, ponds, marshes and canals
- The species prefers calm, turbid waters, with grass beds
- It digs tunnels into banks
- It is active primarily during the daytime
- It is an opportunistic omnivore, however it consumes primarily plants
- Sexual maturity is achieved at 6 months
- Reproduction can occur several times per year (50 to 600 eggs)

Documentation

- GISD worldwide database on invasive species. Invasive species specialist group, IUCN:

<http://www.issg.org/database/species/ecology.asp?si=608>

- 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.

Author: Emilie Mazaubert, Irstea

Classification

Order	Decapoda
Family	Cambaridae
Genus	<i>Procambarus</i>
Species	<i>P. clarkii</i> (Girard, 1852)

