

digger crayfish *Fallicambarus fodiens*

Kingdom: Animalia

Division/Phylum: Arthropoda

Class: Malacostraca

Order: Decapoda

Family: Cambaridae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

The digger crayfish has large claws. Its back is often olive-brown with dark brown blotches but may be light brown or rust-red.

BEHAVIORS

The digger crayfish lives on wooded floodplains and in places where there were once wooded floodplains. *Fallicambarus fodiens* is a burrowing species and is found in surface waters only during floods. The burrows are frequently marked with mudball chimneys and may have up to three entrances. Burrows may be several feet deep. Females with eggs (average number about 130) have been found in early spring. Eggs hatch a few weeks later. This species is an omnivore, eating both plant and animal materials.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

bottomland forests

Woodland Habitats

bottomland forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none

© Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 2019. Biodiversity of Illinois.