

# virile crayfish

*Faxonius virilis*

Kingdom: Animalia  
Phylum: Arthropoda  
Class: Malacostraca  
Order: Decapoda  
Family: Cambaridae

## ILLINOIS STATUS

common, native

## FEATURES

This crayfish is the most common crayfish in Illinois. The virile crayfish has large claws with numerous bumps on them. The back is light brown to dark green-brown.

## BEHAVIORS

The virile crayfish lives in rocky creeks and rivers and lake margins. Burrows of this crayfish may be found along a streambank, but it more frequently hides and overwinters under rocks. The virile crayfish usually reaches maturity in its third year. About 450 eggs are laid in the period March through July. This crayfish eats both dead and living plants and animals.



eggs



hatching

## ILLINOIS RANGE



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### **Aquatic Habitats**

lakes, ponds and reservoirs; rivers and streams

### **Woodland Habitats**

none

### **Prairie and Edge Habitats**

none