

white river crayfish *Procambarus acutus*

Kingdom: Animalia

Division/Phylum: Arthropoda

Class: Malacostraca

Order: Decapoda

Family: Cambaridae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

The white river crayfish has long, narrow claws. It is pink-brown to dark red on its back. Large individuals are dark red with a black rectangle on each abdominal segment.

BEHAVIORS

This crayfish lives in the deep water of swamps, sloughs and sluggish streams. It prefers areas with abundant vegetation. A burrow may be constructed to live in when water bodies reach low levels. A burrow may also be used in the winter or by a female when carrying eggs or young.

This crayfish feeds on vegetation.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

rivers and streams; swamps

Woodland Habitats

none

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none

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