

A SELECTION OF THE CRAYFISHES OF MISSISSIPPI



Cambarellus shufeldtii



Cambarellus diminutus



Cambarellus puer



Faxonella clypeata



Orconectes lancifer



Fallicambarus byersi



Procambarus jaculus



Procambarus shermani



Procambarus barbiger (female)

Crayfishes, also known as crawfish, mudbugs, and crawdads, are related to shrimps, lobsters, and crabs. The southeastern U.S. has the highest crayfish diversity in the world. Mississippi has about 63 named crayfish species and others that are still unnamed. Six of the seven species in the genus *Hobbseus*, as well as 11 other species, live *only* in Mississippi. Crayfishes live in a wide variety of habitats, including lakes, rivers, streams, springs, seasonally wet habitats such as roadside ditches, and even relatively dry savannahs and lawns. Nearly all crayfishes will burrow during adverse conditions such as drought, but some species spend nearly all of their lives in complex burrows. Burrows are marked by



Cambarus ludovicianus

holes in the ground or by the mud "chimneys" that often seal burrow entrances. In addition to being a popular food for people, crayfishes play diverse and important ecological roles in the various habitats they occupy. The greatest threats to crayfishes include habitat destruction, pollution, and introduced species and diseases. Some species are at risk due simply to their naturally limited distributions. For example, the Camp Shelby Burrowing Crayfish occurs only in a small portion of Perry County, and steps are being taken to conserve it. You can help conserve crayfishes by preserving their habitats and by releasing animals only into habitats where they were captured.



Hobbseus valleculus



Hobbseus prominens



Hobbseus cristatus



Orconectes hartfieldi



Orconectes perfectus



Orconectes compressus



Orconectes palmeri



Orconectes putnami



Orconectes alabamensis



Orconectes chickasawae



Orconectes mississippiensis



Fallicambarus oryktes



Fallicambarus fodiens



Procambarus fitzpatricki



Procambarus clarkii



Procambarus mancus



Procambarus hybus



Procambarus hayi



Procambarus acutus



Procambarus vioscai paynei



Procambarus ouachitae



Procambarus ablusus



Procambarus lagniappe



Procambarus barbiger (male)



Cambarus girardianus



Cambarus striatus



Cambarus diogenes