WATER LOG

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Invasive Species

Water Log

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Cover photograph: Giant Applesnail eggs
Credit: Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

Table of Contents photograph: *Ailanthus altissima*
Credit: John Beetham

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

National Shellfisheries Association Annual Meeting

March 29 - April 2, 2020
Baltimore, MD

https://www.shellfish.org

Interagency Conference on Research in the Watersheds

March 30 - April 2, 2020
Tifton, GA

https://www.icrwatersheds.org

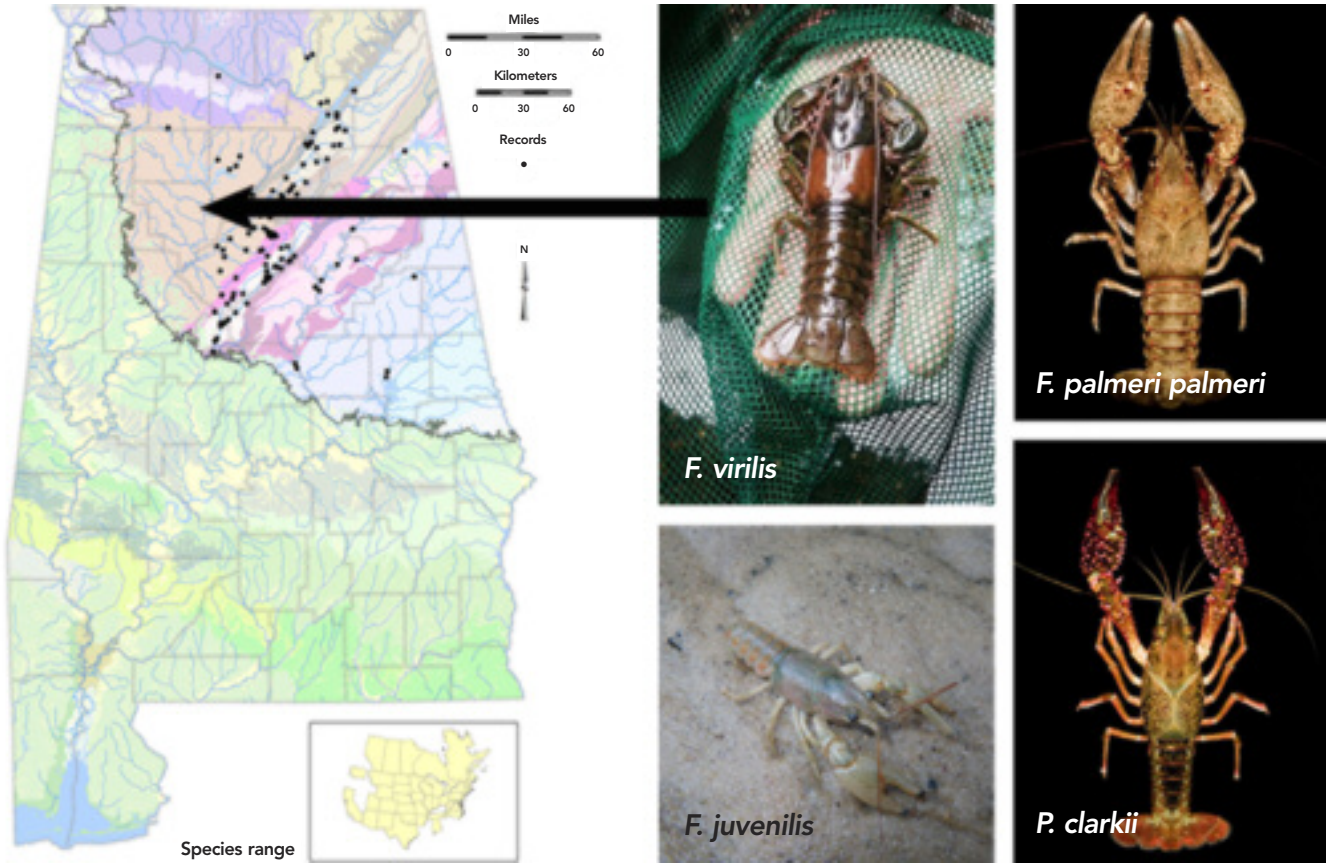
Alabama Mississippi Water Joint Annual Conference

April 5-8, 2020
Mobile, AL

https://almswater.com

An Overview of Native and Invasive Crayfish in Mississippi and Alabama

Susan B. Adams



Photos by SB Adams, except F. virilis photo by ZC Barnett (USFS).
Map credit: Schuster et al., In press.

Mississippi has approximately 63 crayfish species and no known invasive crayfish. Whereas Alabama has about 97 species, including at least three non-natives: the Kentucky River crayfish (*Faxonius juvenilis*), the gray-speckled crayfish (*F. palmeri palmeri*), and the virile crayfish (*F. virilis*). In addition, the red swamp crayfish (*Procambarus clarkii*) is probably native on Alabama's Gulf Coastal Plain but introduced elsewhere in the state.

Often the source of an introduction is unknown, but documented pathways of crayfish introductions include escapes or intentional releases from fishing bait, aquaculture, food trade, and biology classrooms. Some biologists also suspect introductions have occurred by crayfish "hitchhiking" during fish stocking.

The virile crayfish was the first known non-native crayfish in Alabama (Guenter A. Schuster et al., Crayfishes of Alabama Univ. of Ala. Press (forthcoming)) and is now widely established above the Fall Line (see map: black dots indicate virile crayfish recorded sightings). The species becomes quite large in some locations and appears to negatively affect some native crayfish species, although little research has been done on the ecological effects of any of these invasives in Alabama.

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