



crayfish

Cambarus diogenes

Kingdom: Animalia
Division/Phylum: Arthropoda
Class: Malacostraca
Order: Decapoda
Family:

FEATURES

Cambarus diogenes has large claws which are covered with many bumps. The back may be reddish-brown to green with red outlines on the abdominal segments, tips of the claws and area between the eyes.

BEHAVIORS

Cambarus diogenes digs burrows near streams, ponds and lakes. It piles mud balls into a chimney at the top of the burrow. Burrow openings along a stream usually lead to an underwater chamber and a second tunnel that leads into the stream. Mating occurs in fall, late winter or early spring in open water. About 300 eggs are laid per female. Females carrying eggs have been found in Illinois in the months of January through May. Young have been found carried by the female in May and June. This crayfish is believed to eat plant material.

HABITATS

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> bottomland forests | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> rivers & streams |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> lakes, ponds & reservoirs | <input type="checkbox"/> swamps |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Michigan | <input type="checkbox"/> temp water supplies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> marshes | <input type="checkbox"/> wet prairies & fens |
| <input type="checkbox"/> peatlands | |

ILLINOIS STATUS

- | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> common | <input type="checkbox"/> endangered | <input type="checkbox"/> threatened |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> native | <input type="checkbox"/> exotic | |

ILLINOIS RANGE

statewide

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.
Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume I: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.