

Marbled Crayfish or “Marmorkrebs” *Procambarus sp.*

Identification Marmorkrebs reproduce asexually via parthenogenesis, meaning only females are needed to reproduce. Thus, all individuals are female and genetically identical. Usually brown in color, some are blue or a mixture of brown, blue and reddish colors.

Why is it a Problem? Because marmorkrebs reproduce asexually, only one individual is necessary to establish a population. Their quick reproductive rate, widespread distribution in the North American pet trade, and ability to survive fairly low temperatures makes marmorkrebs a potential pest species.



Want to know more? Check out www.dnr.maryland.gov for more on invasive species in Maryland and what you can do about it.

Range/Habitat Origin unknown, but discovered in natural ecosystems in Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and Madagascar.

Similar Species Although found in Europe, species belongs to the American Cambaridae family.

Legal Status MD prohibits the import, transport, purchase, possession, propagation, sale, and/or release of [several species of] crayfish in State waters.

Method of Introduction Discovered in the aquaria of fish hobbyists in Germany in the late 1990s. Individuals recently found in the wild in Europe and Madagascar were most likely aquarium discards.

Control and Prevention Never release live, unused bait or unwanted pets. Educate others about the problems of bait bucket introductions and invasive species.

Sources:

<http://marmorkrebs.org/>

R. Seitz, K. Vilpoux, U. Hopp, S. Harzsch & G. Maier (2005). "Ontogeny of the Marmorkrebs (marbled crayfish): a parthenogenetic crayfish with unknown origin and phylogenetic position". *Journal of Experimental Zoology A* **303** (5): 393–405.

G. Scholtz, A. Braband, L. Tolley, A. Reimann, B. Mittmann, C. Lukhaup, F. Steuerwald & G. Vogt (2003). "Parthenogenesis in an outsider crayfish". *Nature* **6925**: 806-806.

<http://mdc.mo.gov/about-us/get-know-us/organization-structure/conservation-commission/meetings-and-minutes/2010-meeti-1>