

## virile crayfish *Faxonius virilis*

Kingdom: Animalia

Division/Phylum: Arthropoda

Class: Malacostraca

Order: Decapoda

Family: Cambaridae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

### FEATURES

This crayfish is the most common crayfish in Illinois. The virile crayfish has large claws with numerous bumps on them. The back is light brown to dark green-brown.

### BEHAVIORS

The virile crayfish lives in rocky creeks and rivers and lake margins. Burrows of this crayfish may be found along a streambank, but it more frequently hides and overwinters under rocks. The virile crayfish usually reaches maturity in its third year. About 450 eggs are laid in the period March through July. This crayfish eats both dead and living plants and animals.

### HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

lakes, ponds and reservoirs; rivers and streams

Woodland Habitats

none

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none

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