



# MARBLED CRAYFISH MARMORKREBS

*Procambarus spp., Procambarus marmorkrebs*  
Cambaridae, the freshwater crayfish family

## FACTSHEET INFORMATION

### Summary of Invasiveness

- Marmorkrebs are the only known decapod crustacean that reproduces by parthenogenesis (self cloning).
- Parthenogenesis allows for high reproductive potential, and one single specimen can create a new population.
- Threatens biodiversity and ecosystem function.
- Threatens native crayfish due to competition and transmission of crayfish plague.

### Diagnostic Characteristics

- Medium sized crayfish; total length can be up to 13cm.
- Distinct marbled color pattern especially prominent on lateral parts of carapace.
- Basic color is usually dark brown to olive; selectively bred for color morphs in the aquarium hobby.
- Only females exist.
- Chelae are relatively small.

### Introduction and Movement

- Unknown origin - an indigenous population has never been reported.
- Marmorkrebs were first discovered in the German pet trade in the mid-1990s.
- The appealing coloration, undemanding nature, and ease of reproduction makes Marmorkrebs attractive to aquarium hobbyists.
- Introduced into waterways via the deliberate release of aquarium specimens.

### Prevention Strategy

- To prevent accidental introductions, ensure that all watercraft, wading gear, and other water related equipment are clean, drained, and dry between use in each waterbody.
- Use of live bait is prohibited in Idaho.
- Never release any animal or plant into the wild.
- Be aware that most species of crayfish will travel over land and may easily escape ponds and water gardens.
- Always Remember: **DON'T LET IT LOOSE**

CLEAN & DRAIN & DRY

#### Sources

- CABI Invasive Species Compendium: <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/110477>.



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