

The First Record of American Tadpole Shrimp (*Triops longicaudatus*) in Illinois

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ABSTRACT

The American tadpole shrimp is widely distributed throughout the Western United States and has recently been found in rice fields in the bootheel of Missouri. We document the first record of this species in Illinois.

INTRODUCTION

American tadpole shrimp was traditionally considered to be a species of the Western U.S. but seems to have been on an eastward range expansion for several years (Taylor et al. 1987, Tindall et al 2009). Tindall et al. (2009) described the all documented specimens in Missouri. First reported in 1979 and 1983, specimens were collected near Jackass Bend on the Missouri River in Jackson County near the Kansas line. Single specimens were found in east central Missouri in St. Charles County on the Missouri River and in the bootheel in Pemiscot County on a rice field near the Mississippi River in 2007. Rice fields in the counties of Stoddard and New Madrid were reported to be infested with the species in 2008. In 2009, rice field infestations were reported in the bootheel counties of Dunklin and Mississippi. This species is considered to be a pest of rice throughout its range.

COLLECTION

On May 26, 2009, we captured three specimens by hand in an ephemeral pool near the Mississippi River on the inside of Potato Bend at an unpaved boat ramp parking lot in Jackson County, two miles south of Cora IL (UTM NAD 1983 zone16 4186057N 265856E). The silt bottom pool was estimated to be 2 meters by 4 meters with a maximum depth of 20 cm. Specimens were captured by hand. All three specimens captured were preserved and will be deposited in the Illinois Natural History Survey Crustacean Collection.

The species is known to disperse via floodwater (Taylor et al. 1987). It was likely brought down the Mississippi River from the Missouri River during spring floods. Because this species is also known to disperse via birds and wind, it will likely be on the batture (inland) side of the levee soon if it is not already (Green and Figuerola 2005; Caceres and Soluk 2002; Nathan et al 2005; Graham and Wirth 2008). Although considered a

pest by rice farmers, it is considered as a possible human ally against West Nile virus and a biological control agent for certain weeds (Fry et al.1994; Takahashi 1977).

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