

# Marbled Crayfish or “Marmorkrebs” *Procambarus sp.*

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**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](http://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.

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**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 marbled 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>