

Our Arroyo Ecosystem



Louisiana Red Swamp Crayfish *Procambarus clarkii*

This crayfish is an invasive species and is a major threat to stream ecosystems in Southern California.

Known as the Viking of its species for its aggressive nature, it is native to the southeastern United States but has been introduced worldwide. This is probably due to its popularity as a food item – it accounts for 85-90% of world crayfish consumption – but also because of its use as fish bait. In fact, it is still sold in California stores as fish bait, and is also sold as pets.

Once released into a stream, these crayfish reproduce rapidly and can survive in a crack of mud. They are predatory omnivores, affecting native aquatic plants as well as native invertebrates and amphibians, including tree frogs and newts.

For more information, visit www.mednscience.org/crayfish

