



## Descriptions of two new crayfishes of the genus *Fallicambarus* from southeast Texas with notes on the distribution of *F. (F.) macneesei*

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### Abstract

Two new burrowing crayfish species, *Fallicambarus (F.) houstonensis* and *F. (F.) kountzeae*, are described from six and two southeastern Texas counties respectively. *F. (F.) houstonensis* can be distinguished from other members of the subgenus by the following characters: ischia of third and fourth pereopods bear hooks; mesial ramus of uropod with distolateral and distomedian spines, distomedian spine never projecting beyond margin of ramus; cheliped with sufflamen. *F. (F.) kountzeae* is similar to *houstonensis*, but the cheliped lacks sufflamen. New distributional records are given for *Fallicambarus (F.) macneesei*, a close relative which also occurs in southeast Texas.

**Key words:** crawfish, crayfish, distribution, species descriptions

### Introduction

The crayfish fauna of Texas has historically received little attention. During the last twenty years, however, numerous species apparently endemic to Texas have been described, largely due to the efforts of the late Dr Horton Hobbs Jr. These include *Fallicambarus (F.) devastator* from Neches River basin (Hobbs and Whitman 1987); *Procambarus (Girardiella) kensleyi*, *P. (G.) nigrocinctus* and *P. (Ortmannicus) nechesae* also from the Neches River basin (Hobbs 1990); *P. (O.) zonangulus* from the extreme southeastern corner of the state (Hobbs and Hobbs 1990); *P. (G.) steigmani* from Collin County (Hobbs 1991); *P. (O.) nueces* from the Nueces River (Hobbs and Hobbs 1995) and *P. (G.) ceruleus* from Brazos County (Fitzpatrick and Wicksten 1998). In spite of what appears to be an impressive number of new species described, the specimens upon which these descriptions were made were apparently obtained from very localized surveys. The only extensive field efforts made during this time that the author is aware of are the expeditions to the Neches River Basin by Horton Hobbs Jr. and Brian Kensley in 1987.

In October of 2006, the author began a large-scale survey of the Texas crayfish fauna with the ultimate goal being publication of a field guide for the state. As part of this project, surveys of southeastern Texas counties showed the subgenus *Fallicambarus* to be widespread and comprising four species, two of which are new species whose descriptions are the subject of this paper.

### *Fallicambarus (Fallicambarus) houstonensis* new species

Houston Burrowing Crayfish

Figs 1–8

*Diagnosis.*—Rostrum devoid of marginal spines. Areola obliterated. Ischia of third and fourth pereopods of form I males with hooks. Coxa of fourth pereopod with massive boss. First pleopod with proximomesial