FIRST RECORD OF THE CRAYFISH *PROCAMBARUS CLARKII* GIRARD, 1852 IN SOUTH BRAZIL

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The crayfish *Procambarus clarkii* Girard, 1852, is native to south-central United States and northeastern Mexico, it has been introduced in all continents except Antarctica and Oceania due to its commercial importance. It is responsible for great modifications in invaded environments causing irreparable ecological and economic damages. Its impressive ability to successfully colonize a wide range of environments is a consequence of its behavioral and biological characteristics that can adapt to features of the invaded location. In Brazil, *P. clarkii* has 17 established populations, all of them in Southeast Brazil, having been introduced for the aquarium trade and later released into nature accidentally or deliberately since 1985 and it continues as strong as ever today, even though illegal. This study reported the first record this specie in the other region showing the risk to expand to the South of Brazil. The specimens were obtained in Ribeirão Claro (23° 11' 38" S, 49° 45' 28" W), Paraná State, South of Brazil, in fish pond of a private property, close to the Paranapanema River reservoir. Sampling was carried in September 2013 and March 2015. A total of 3 crayfish were selected and fixed in 70% ethanol among more than 10 crayfish collected. Among the selected, two males (one morphotype I - reproductive form and one morphotype II non - reproductive form) and one female were deposited in the Carcinological Collection of the Museum of Zoology of the University of São Paulo (MZUSP 36845). Interviews with people who live and work in places where the specimens occur indicated that animal cultivation as pet could be an important introduction pathway, since the first animal observed was released on site after being purchased pet shops in the state of São Paulo, despite the laws that forbid the importation, transportation and commercialization.

Keywords: impact, alien biology, exotic crayfish.