

## **Method for Quick Assessment of Ovary Maturation in Crayfish. CRAYFISH NEWS VOL. 32:3 p.6.**

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This method is ideal for researchers interested in quickly assessing ovary maturation in the field. Ovarian development of female crayfish can be assessed by gently separating the thorax and abdomen to expose gap between the two (fig.1). The ovary can be see through the clear membrane. Both egg colour and relative size can be noted (fig.2). In my studies, I have used the following designations: swe-small white eggs; mbwe – medium brown and white eggs; mbe- medium brown eggs; lbe-large brown eggs. This can be recorded in conjunction with glair gland development in the tail fan and gives a sound estimate of maturity as well as reproductive cycle without having to sacrifice females. Well suited for studying endangered species/small, vulnerable populations.

If you need more clarification you can contact me at [phamr@ucc.on.ca](mailto:phamr@ucc.on.ca)

**Fig 1. Method of gently separating thorax and abdomen to expose gap.**



**Fig. 2** Close up of a *Cambarus robustus* mature female: you can clearly see the eggs (yellow and brown mixture) in the gap.

