



Comal Springs Dryopid Beetle Species Information

Scientific Name: *Stygoparnus comalensis*

Family: Dryopidae

Description: Adult Comal Springs dryopid beetles are about 0.3–0.4 mm (1/8 inch) long. They have non-functional eyes. This species is the only subterranean aquatic member of its family. The larvae of the Comal Springs dryopid beetle are presumed to be associated with air-filled voids inside the spring orifices since all other known dryopid beetle larvae are terrestrial.

Status: It was listed as endangered in 1997.

Native Area: Collection records for the Comal Springs dryopid beetle are primarily from Comal Springs, but they have also been collected from Fern Bank Springs about 32 km (20 miles) to the northeast in Hays County.

Additional Comments: Unlike Peck's cave amphipod, the Comal Springs dryopid beetle does not swim and it may have a smaller range within the Edwards Aquifer.



Information and photo provided by San Marcos National Fish Hatchery and Technology Center

http://fws.gov/southwest/fisheries/san_marcos/index.html