

BIG THICKET ASSOCIATION

**P.O. Box 198**

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**Background Information- Dan Johnson**

Dan Johnson of Houston is an amateur naturalist who has discovered and formally described 8 new species of crawfish. ToD Director Mona Halvorsen discovered Johnson’s research when data mining on the internet. This brings the number of crawfish species known from Texas to 43. Dan’s work is of great interest to the Thicket of Diversity which is attempting to inventory all species in the Big Thicket region of Texas. Dan technically was not a ToD researcher as he was not funded through the ToD. He did apply for researcher permits through the BITH and collaborated with Zachary Loughman who also specializes in crawfish research.

Of interest, Johnson identified a new species that he named *Fallicambarus kountzae*, Big Thicket Burrowing Crayfish. Johnson noted there was no evidence researchers had ever collected it before. He found it at 25 sites, all located in Tyler and Hardin Counties. It is abundant in its small range and appears to be a substantial pest in the towns in the area. Yards can be covered with huge numbers of burrow mounds during wet times.

Johnson is compiling his research into a book, Crawfishes of Texas, that will be published in the near future.

Submitted by: Mary C. Johnston