

Densities and Habitat of American Brook Lamprey (*Lampetra appendix*) Larvae in Minnesota

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ABSTRACT.—At least one formerly large population of American brook lamprey (*Lampetra appendix*) has been extirpated in Minnesota, but little is known about the species in the state. We examined densities and age structures of American brook lamprey larvae in several streams in southeastern Minnesota. Mean densities of lamprey larvae in the best habitats available in 13 streams varied from 0.33–5.78 larvae/m². Seven of nine streams examined had missing age classes of larvae, with five streams missing two or more classes. Habitat use and length–weight relationships of larvae were similar to those reported previously for this and other species of lamprey. Many *L. appendix* populations in Minnesota are healthy, but others are susceptible to extirpation because of low densities and multiple missing age classes. The current status of many of these populations, and their susceptibility to further disturbance, need to be more thoroughly examined to better assess the need for legal protection for the species in Minnesota.

INTRODUCTION

The American brook lamprey *Lampetra appendix* (DeKay) has the widest geographic distribution of any nonparasitic lamprey in North America (Page and Burr, 1991), but populations have declined or been eliminated from many streams because of human activities that impact the lamprey and its stream habitats (Renaud, 1997; Mundahl, 1998). Residential development within drainage basins (Eddy and Underhill, 1974), dam construction and flood-control projects (Trautman, 1981), pollution from agricultural activities and logging (Eddy and Underhill, 1974; Trautman, 1981), bait collecting (Vladykov, 1949, 1973) and sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus* control projects (Manion and Purvis, 1971; Cochran *et al.*, 1993) all have been detrimental to populations of *L. appendix*. Populations on the periphery of the species' range are most threatened (NatureServe, 2003), and several states in these regions (*e.g.*, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont, Iowa) have heeded pleas (Vladykov, 1973; Renaud, 1997) to protect North American nonparasitic lampreys in affording *L. appendix* protected status (Johnson, 1987; Hoff, 1988; Schmidt, 1995).

In Minnesota, the American brook lamprey is restricted primarily to the southeastern portion of the state (Phillips *et al.*, 1982), where streams have been impacted by human activities for over a century (Waters, 1977; Thorn *et al.*, 1997) and where several populations of *Lampetra appendix* have been extirpated (Eddy and Underhill, 1974; Phillips *et al.*, 1982). Minnesota lies on the northwestern periphery of the range of *L. appendix*. Although American brook lamprey was listed as a Special Concern species in Minnesota prior to 1996, it was removed from the list after the species was collected in a variety of streams in the southeastern part of the state during the early- and mid-1990s. However, no comprehensive

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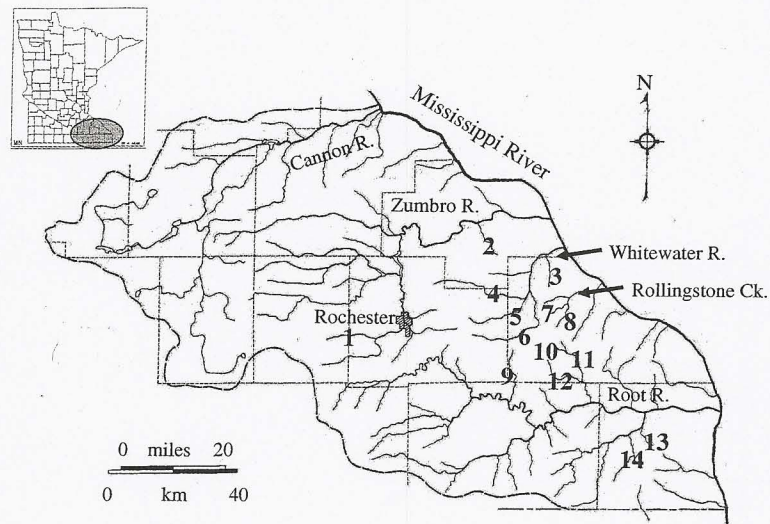


FIG. 1.—Map of streams in southeastern Minnesota, with major drainages and streams where American brook lamprey larvae were collected. Inset highlights location of study area in Minnesota. Study streams were: 1 – Salem Creek, 2 – West Indian Creek, 3 – Trout Valley Creek, 4 – North Branch Whitewater River, 5 – Middle Branch Whitewater River, 6 – South Branch Whitewater River, 7 – Bear Creek, 8 – Rupprecht Creek, 9 – Trout Run Creek, 10 – Ferguson Creek, 11 – Rush Creek, 12 – Pine Creek, 13 – Badger Creek, 14 – Beaver Creek

surveys, or even general population assessments, of *L. appendix* have ever been conducted within this region.

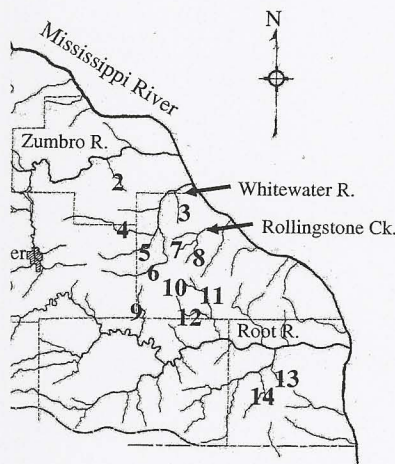
During a series of stream surveys, watershed assessments and student research projects conducted over a period of 5 y, we collected a variety of data on American brook lamprey larvae and their habitats in many streams throughout southeastern Minnesota. Here we summarize these data in an attempt to determine the present status of several populations of American brook lamprey within four drainages in southeastern Minnesota and to evaluate the decision to not provide state-wide protection for the species. We examined densities and age structures of larvae to assess population status and also evaluated their length-weight patterns and habitat use for comparison to previous work on the species in other portions of its range.

STUDY AREA

Streams in southeastern Minnesota extend across two ecoregions (Driftless Area, Western Corn Belt Plains; Omernik and Gallant, 1988) and include a mix of coldwater, coolwater and warmwater systems. Four major drainages (Cannon River – 3785 km², Zumbro River – 3656 km², Root River – 4275 km², Whitewater River – 758 km²) and many other smaller systems all are tributary to the Mississippi River (Fig. 1). Land use is dominated by agriculture (mixed row crop, hay and pasture), although several areas support managed forests or moderate-sized (30,000–75,000 people) urban areas. This region of rolling uplands and steeply sloped valleys was subjected to intensive agricultural development and logging in the late-1800s, resulting in increased erosion, flooding and stream sedimentation and decreased discharges of coldwater springs (Surber, 1924; Waters, 1977; Trimble and Lund,

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1982; Thorn *et al.*, 1997). Deterioration of stream habitat quality and overexploitation led to extirpation of some of the native fish fauna, most notably brook trout *Salvelinus fontinalis*, in many streams by 1900 (Thorn *et al.*, 1997).

Since 1930, stream habitat degradation in southeastern Minnesota has diminished and some natural stream rehabilitation has occurred as land conservation practices have been implemented (Thorn *et al.*, 1997). Much instream habitat today remains degraded, but extensive sections of stream habitat have been improved for trout (mostly introduced brown trout *Salmo trutta*) over the past several decades (Thorn *et al.*, 1997), with approximately 5 km of new habitat improvements added each year [Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), 1998]. Trout management activities in this region today involve 1145 km of 139 streams (Thorn *et al.*, 1997).

This study focused on a five-county area where *Lampetra appendix* was most common in historical collections (MDNR, 1995). Other lampreys (northern brook lamprey *Ichthyomyzon fossor* and silver lamprey *I. unicuspis*) are extremely rare within this region (Phillips *et al.*, 1982).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

During various research and assessment projects conducted in southeastern Minnesota between April and September, 1995–1999, American brook lamprey larvae were collected from their burrows in fine sediments with the aid of backpack electrofishing units (Smith Root Type VII and 12-B POW). Based on prior collecting experience, habitats judged most suitable and likely to contain lamprey larvae were electrofished intensively and all emerging larvae were captured until no additional specimens emerged from the sediments in three successive passes. The total area sampled was measured to determine larval density (Beamish and Lowartz, 1996). This approach was used to determine densities of larvae in the best habitat available, rather than to assess an overall density for an entire stream segment. No attempt was made to determine the total area of habitat suitable for lamprey larvae in each stream.

Larvae collected from several streams were anesthetized (MS-222), weighed (nearest 0.1 g wet weight), measured [mm total length (TL)] and returned to their habitat after recovery. Size measurements were used to assess length-weight patterns of larvae and population age structure (based on smoothed length-frequency distributions; Hardisty and Potter, 1971; Beamish and Medland, 1988) at each of the stream sites. Populations examined during summer were expected to contain a maximum of five size/age groups of larvae, whereas those examined during autumn through spring should contain four size/age groups of larvae plus metamorphosed, prespawning adults (Seagle and Nagel, 1982). Although statoliths can be used to determine American brook lamprey age and verify age classes (*e.g.*, Beamish and Medland, 1988), they were not used because of a no-kill policy in effect during the study period.

During some of the lamprey surveys conducted during late-summer and autumn (baseflow stream conditions present), habitat assessments were made at the point of collection of individual larvae. Water depth and average water column current velocity [cm/s at 0.6-depth (60% of distance from stream surface to bottom); Marsh-McBirney Flowmate current meter] were measured and a sample (>100 ml) of the substrate (top 5 cm) from which the larvae emerged was collected and returned to the laboratory for particle size (serial sieving of dried sediments through 0.2-, 0.4- and 0.8-mm mesh sieves) and volatile organic matter (weight loss on ignition of dried sediments at 550 C for 3 h) analyses.

Minnesota, with major drainages and streams where set highlights location of study area in Minnesota. 1 – Bear River, 2 – North Branch Whitewater River, 3 – Trout Valley Creek, 4 – North Branch River, 5 – South Branch Whitewater River, 6 – Bear River, 7 – Bear River, 8 – Bear River, 9 – Ferguson Creek, 10 – Ferguson Creek, 11 – Rush Creek, 12 – Pine

ments, of *L. appendix* have ever been conducted

and assessments and student research projects a variety of data on American brook lamprey throughout southeastern Minnesota. Here we describe the present status of several populations of brook lamprey in southeastern Minnesota and to evaluate habitat suitability for the species. We examined densities and length-weight status and also evaluated their length-weight status in previous work on the species in other portions

STUDY AREA

The study area covers two ecoregions (Driftless Area, Western Lake Superior) and include a mix of coldwater, coolwater and warmwater rivers – 3785 km², Zumbro River – 3656 km² – 758 km²) and many other smaller systems (Table 1). Land use is dominated by agriculture and forests. In several areas support managed forests or state parks. This region of rolling uplands and rolling hills has extensive agricultural development and logging in the past, flooding and stream sedimentation and stream channelization (Berger, 1924; Waters, 1977; Trimble and Lund,

TABLE 1.—Data collected on American brook lamprey larvae and their habitats in 14 streams within four drainages of the upper Mississippi River in southeastern Minnesota. X indicates data present

Drainage/stream	Density	Age classes	Length-weight	Habitat
Whitewater River drainage				
N. Br. Whitewater	X	X	X	X
M. Br. Whitewater	X	X	X	
S. Br. Whitewater	X	X	X	
Trout Valley Creek	X	X	X	X
Root River drainage				
Rush Creek	X			
Beaver Creek	X	X	X	X
Badger Creek	X	X	X	
Trout Run Creek	X			
Pine Creek	X	X	X	X
Ferguson Creek				X
Rollingstone Creek drainage				
Bear Creek	X		X	X
Rupprecht Creek	X		X	
Zumbro River drainage				
Salem Creek	X	X	X	X
W. Indian Creek	X	X	X	X

Because of the varying goals of the different projects for which data on lamprey larvae were gathered, comparable data were not available for all of the 14 streams examined in this study. Density estimates were conducted in 13 streams, age structures were examined in nine streams, length-weight relationships were assessed in 11 streams and habitat data were gathered from eight streams (Table 1).

RESULTS

DENSITY ESTIMATES, AGE STRUCTURES AND LENGTH-WEIGHT PATTERNS OF LAMPREY LARVAE

Densities of American brook lamprey larvae were determined for small areas ($n = 85$, mean = 4.22 m^2 , range = $0.12\text{--}19.60 \text{ m}^2$) of habitat in 13 streams within four drainage basins (Fig. 1). Mean densities ranged from 0.33 larvae/m^2 in Trout Run Creek to 5.78 larvae/m^2 in Pine Creek (Table 2), and differed significantly (Kruskal-Wallis test: $H = 30.89$, $P < 0.001$) among streams. However, since densities were quite variable among streams within the same drainage (Table 2), there was no significant (Kruskal-Wallis test: $H = 5.34$, $P = 0.15$) difference in densities among the four drainages examined. Mean density in a stream was not correlated with either the length range of larvae collected (simple linear regression: $F = 1.10$, $P = 0.32$, $r^2 = 0.08$) or the number of age groups of larvae present (simple linear regression: $F = 0.30$, $P = 0.60$, $r^2 = 0.04$). Overall mean density for all streams was 3.57 larvae/m^2 . Maximum densities found in any single location within each stream ranged from 0.33 to 16.67 larvae/m^2 , with maximum densities averaging 5.4 larvae/m^2 across all streams.

Lamprey population age structures (*i.e.*, number and size of age classes present) based on length-frequencies varied widely among streams for both April and August samples (Table 2). Small, age-1 larvae comprised the most abundant age class in most (eight of 11) samples during both periods. In April 1997 and 1998, when four age classes of larvae were expected,

TABLE 2.—Mean (\pm SD) densities (number/ π) in 13 streams within four drainages of the upper

Drainage/stream	Number
Whitewater River drainage	
N. Br. Whitewater	
M. Br. Whitewater	
S. Br. Whitewater	
Trout Valley Creek	2
Root River drainage	
Rush Creek	
Beaver Creek	
Badger Creek	
Trout Run Creek	
Pine Creek	1
Rollingstone Creek drainage	
Bear Creek	
Rupprecht Creek	
Zumbro River drainage	
Salem Creek	
W. Indian Creek	

only two of five streams contained all four missing intermediate-size (ages class 2 or 4 larvae. Dominant year classes had been seen in 5 streams). In August 1999, when five age

TABLE 3.—Year classes of American brook lamprey larvae during April 1997–1998 and August 1999. Year class 0 larvae were not available for capture

Stream	N	0
April 1997		
N. Br. Whitewater	56	
Pine Creek	48	
April 1998		
Salem Creek	77	
Trout Valley Creek	109	
West Indian Creek	64	
August 1999		
N. Br. Whitewater	124	
M. Br. Whitewater	78	
S. Br. Whitewater	37	
Trout Valley Creek	62	3
Beaver Creek	20	
Badger Creek	22	

key larvae and their habitats in 14 streams within northeastern Minnesota. X indicates data present

Age classes	Length-weight	Habitat
X	X	X
X	X	
X	X	
X	X	X
X	X	X
X	X	X
X	X	X
X	X	X

projects for which data on lamprey larvae were collected for all of the 14 streams examined in this study. In 11 streams, age structures were examined in 11 streams and habitat data

H-WEIGHT PATTERNS OF LAMPREY LARVAE

were determined for small areas (n = 85, total in 13 streams within four drainage basins) in Trout Run Creek to 5.78 larvae/m² (Kruskal-Wallis test: H = 30.89, P < 0.001) and variable among streams within the same drainage basin (Kruskal-Wallis test: H = 5.34, P = 0.15) were examined. Mean density in a stream was determined from larvae collected (simple linear regression: F = 1.14, P = 0.30) in age groups of larvae present (simple linear regression: F = 1.14, P = 0.30) in all mean density for all streams was 3.57 larvae/m². Location within each stream ranged from 0 to 100 m, averaging 5.4 larvae/m² across all streams. The number and size of age classes present) based on data from both April and August samples (Table 2). The dominant age class in most (eight of 11) samples was age class 0. In four age classes of larvae were expected,

TABLE 2.—Mean (±SD) densities (number/m²) and density ranges of American brook lamprey larvae in 13 streams within four drainages of the upper Mississippi River in southeastern Minnesota

Drainage/stream	Number of sites	Density	Range
Whitewater River drainage			
N. Br. Whitewater	9	3.63 (1.35)	1.70–5.13
M. Br. Whitewater	2	4.70 (2.40)	3.00–6.40
S. Br. Whitewater	4	2.52 (1.00)	1.71–3.96
Trout Valley Creek	23	5.74 (3.83)	0.75–16.00
Root River drainage			
Rush Creek	5	2.10 (0.95)	0.57–3.00
Beaver Creek	4	1.17 (0.75)	0.44–2.00
Badger Creek	4	3.69 (2.88)	2.00–8.00
Trout Run Creek	2	0.33 (0.00)	0.33–0.33
Pine Creek	11	5.78 (4.59)	1.16–16.67
Rollingstone Creek drainage			
Bear Creek	4	1.04 (0.45)	0.56–1.50
Rupprecht Creek	3	0.55 (0.39)	0.33–1.00
Zumbro River drainage			
Salem Creek	6	1.93 (1.11)	0.51–3.03
W. Indian Creek	8	1.79 (1.18)	0.34–3.81

only two of five streams contained all four age groups of larvae (Table 3). Two streams were missing intermediate-size (ages class 2 or 3) larvae and one stream contained no large, age-4 larvae. Dominant year classes had been spawned in either 1996 (three streams) or 1997 (two streams). In August 1999, when five age classes of larvae may have been present (although

TABLE 3.—Year classes of American brook lamprey larvae present in southeastern Minnesota streams during April 1997–1998 and August 1999. Values are percentages of all individuals captured at a site. Year class 0 larvae were not available for capture in April, but should have been available in August. N is sample size

Stream	N	Year class				
		0	1	2	3	4
April 1997						
N. Br. Whitewater	56		80	13		7
Pine Creek	48		46	29	21	4
April 1998						
Salem Creek	77		21	52	22	5
Trout Valley Creek	109		61	36	3	
West Indian Creek	64		88		2	10
August 1999						
N. Br. Whitewater	124		83	14		3
M. Br. Whitewater	78		92	8		
S. Br. Whitewater	37		5	3	14	78
Trout Valley Creek	62	3	58	3		
Beaver Creek	20					100
Badger Creek	22		41	59		

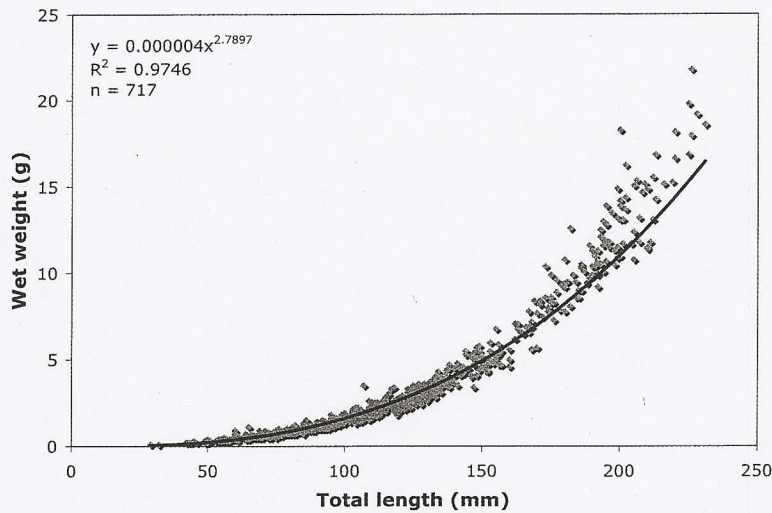


FIG. 2.—Total length–wet weight relationship of American brook lamprey larvae collected from 11 streams in southeastern Minnesota, 1997–1999. See Table 1 for the list of streams included

small, age-0 larvae are difficult to collect), only one of six streams contained 4 age classes (Table 3). Three streams were missing both ages 3 and 4 larvae, whereas one stream contained only age 4 larvae. Dominant age classes had been spawned in 1995 (two streams), 1997 (one stream) or 1998 (three streams).

Length–weight relationships of lamprey larvae were determined for specimens from 11 different streams (Table 1). Larvae ranged from 29–231 mm TL and 0.1–21.8 g wet weight. Larvae from most streams exhibited similar length–weight patterns, but significant differences in these relationships (analysis of covariance: $F = 23.79$, $P < 0.01$) were detected among streams. However, these differences were attributed mostly to two streams (Bear and Beaver creeks), where only small numbers of very large larvae were collected. Since these differences were judged to be minor, measurements of larvae from all 11 streams were combined to produce a single length–weight relationship (Fig. 2).

ASSESSMENTS OF LARVAL LAMPREY HABITATS

American brook lamprey larvae typically were collected from soft sediments in shallow (<50 cm), slow-moving (5 cm/s) water (Table 4). However, larvae in some streams occupied habitats different from those in other streams. For example, mean water depths at larvae collection sites differed significantly (Kruskal-Wallis test: $H = 36.76$, $P < 0.001$) among streams, with Trout Valley Creek and North Branch Whitewater River collections generally from shallower sites (mean depths < 30 cm). Average water column current velocities also differed significantly (Kruskal-Wallis test: $H = 34.01$, $P < 0.001$) among streams, with Trout Valley Creek collection site velocities averaging 3–4× greater than those found at other streams. Depth and velocity at collection sites were not correlated ($r = -0.13$). Organic contents of surface sediments where larvae were collected averaged <10% (Table 4), but differed significantly (Kruskal-Wallis: $H = 40.82$, $P < 0.001$) among streams. Trout Valley Creek and West Indian Creek sediments had significantly lower organic contents (means < 5%) than did sediments in other streams. However, there was no significant

TABLE 4.—Mean water depth, water column surface sediments at locations where American southeastern Minnesota streams. Ranges are s

Stream	n	Water d (cm)
Pine Creek	41	38 (15–)
N. Br. Whitewater R.	27	28 (11–)
W. Indian Creek	15	46 (20–)
Trout Valley Creek	21	21 (3–5)
Salem Creek	15	35 (17–)
Beaver Creek	4	49 (29–)
Ferguson Creek	3	50 (34–)
Bear Creek	1	20

relationship (simple linear regression: al and either water depth, current veloci examined.

Sediments where larvae were collected by medium and fine sand and silt (particle gravel (>0.8 mm) were present in sampl abundance in most samples. Particle size- (contingency table: $X^2 = 1727.1$, $P \ll 0$ Trout Valley and West Indian creeks d

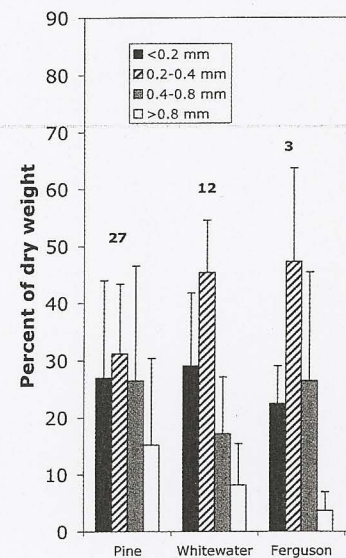
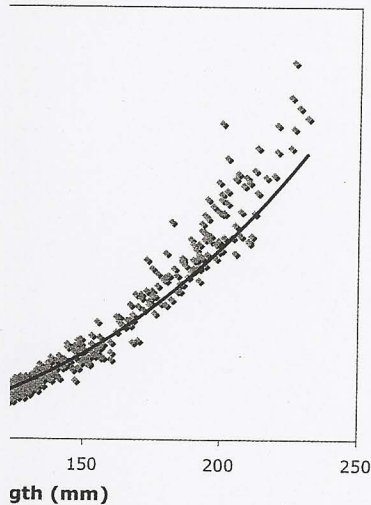


FIG. 3.—Particle size distributions of sedimer eight southeastern Minnesota streams. Bars a and numbers above bars are sample sizes



American brook lamprey larvae collected from the streams listed in Table 1 for the list of streams included

One of six streams contained 4 age classes of larvae, whereas one stream had been spawned in 1995 (two streams),

Measurements were determined for specimens from 11 streams with total lengths of 29–231 mm TL and 0.1–21.8 g wet weight. Significant differences in length-weight patterns, but significant covariance: $F = 23.79, P < 0.01$ were detected. Differences were attributed mostly to two streams. Numbers of very large larvae were collected. Measurements of larvae from all 11 streams showed a significant relationship (Fig. 2).

LAMPREY HABITATS

Larvae were collected from soft sediments in shallow streams. However, larvae in some streams occupied deeper water. For example, mean water depths at larvae collection sites (Mann-Whitney U test: $H = 36.76, P < 0.001$) among eight southeastern Minnesota streams generally were less than 30 cm. Average water column current velocities at larvae collection sites were not correlated ($r = -0.13$). Average water column current velocities at larvae collection sites were not correlated ($r = -0.13$). Larvae were collected averaged $<10\%$ (Table 1) among streams. Trout Valley had significantly lower organic contents than other streams. However, there was no significant

TABLE 4.—Mean water depth, water column current velocity (0.6 depth) and organic content of surface sediments at locations where American brook lamprey larvae emerged from sediments in eight southeastern Minnesota streams. Ranges are shown in parentheses

Stream	n	Water depth (cm)	Current velocity (cm/s)	Sediment organic content (%)
Pine Creek	41	38 (15–100)	5 (0–20)	9.88 (1.73–18.54)
N. Br. Whitewater R.	27	28 (11–45)	5 (0–20)	10.97 (4.80–21.00)
W. Indian Creek	15	46 (20–75)	6 (2–11)	4.22 (2.19–6.60)
Trout Valley Creek	21	21 (3–52)	18 (0–42)	2.82 (0.51–4.80)
Salem Creek	15	35 (17–52)	4 (1–11)	6.50 (3.94–11.20)
Beaver Creek	4	49 (29–67)	4 (4–4)	8.20 (4.18–11.72)
Ferguson Creek	3	50 (34–62)	9 (5–14)	6.84 (4.20–8.52)
Bear Creek	1	20	0	6.01

relationship (simple linear regression: all $P > 0.10$) between the density of lamprey larvae and either water depth, current velocity or sediment organic content in the streams examined.

Sediments where larvae were collected most often were dominated (on a dry weight basis) by medium and fine sand and silt (particles <0.4 mm diameter; Fig. 3). Very coarse sand and gravel (>0.8 mm) were present in samples collected from all streams, but were very low in abundance in most samples. Particle size-class composition of sediments varied significantly (contingency table: $\chi^2 = 1727.1, P \ll 0.001$) among the streams, with sediments in Bear, Trout Valley and West Indian creeks dominated by much finer particles than were the

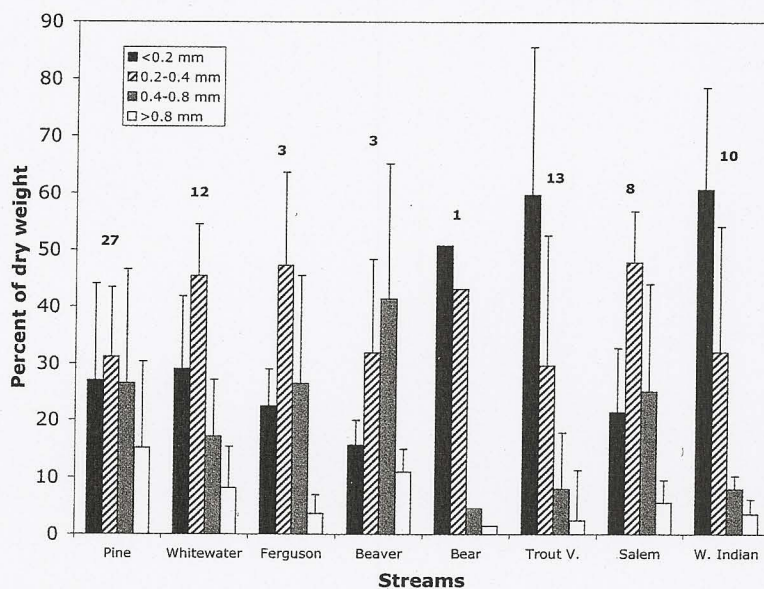


FIG. 3.—Particle size distributions of sediments from American brook lamprey larva collection sites in eight southeastern Minnesota streams. Bars are means, thin lines represent one standard deviation, and numbers above bars are sample sizes

sediments collected from other streams. However, densities of lamprey larvae were no different (t -test: $t = 0.16$, $P = 0.88$) in these streams than in those with coarser sediments.

DISCUSSION

Densities of American brook lamprey larvae varied dramatically within and among streams sampled, despite selecting sites with habitats judged most suitable for larvae. Varying densities in southeastern Minnesota streams are not unusual for this (Beamish and Lowartz, 1996) or other lamprey species (Manion and McLain, 1971; Potter *et al.*, 1986; Beamish and Jebbink, 1994; Pajos and Weise, 1994). Much of the variation in densities can be attributed to slight variations in habitat, especially with respect to sediment particle size composition (*see* review by Beamish and Lowartz, 1996). The abundance of American brook lamprey larvae increases exponentially with increases in medium-fine sand (0.15–0.25 mm diam; Beamish and Lowartz, 1996), with larvae avoiding finer and coarser sediments (Anderson and White, 1988; Lee, 1989). However, in the present study, densities of larvae displayed no pattern related to sediment size composition. Densities of some species of lamprey larvae also may be affected by sediment organic content, current velocity and water depth, but none of these have been found to have a significant effect on densities of *Lampetra appendix* larvae (Anderson and White, 1988; Beamish and Lowartz, 1996; present study).

Very few studies have assessed population sizes or densities of American brook lamprey larvae (Smith and McLain, 1962; Waters *et al.*, 1993; Simonson and Lyons, 1995; Beamish and Lowartz, 1996). Population estimates of *Lampetra appendix* larvae that included all stream habitats (Smith and McLain, 1962; Waters *et al.*, 1993; Simonson and Lyons, 1995) are not comparable to densities measured only in suitable habitats as in the present study. Similarly, mean lamprey densities from the present study are not comparable to those reported by Beamish and Lowartz (1996), since the latter study included habitats where larvae were least likely to exist. However, maximum densities from the 13 streams in the present study (median = 3.81 larvae/m², mean = 5.40 larvae/m², range = 0.33–16.67 larvae/m²) are comparable, but considerably lower, than maximum densities (median = 11.8 larvae/m², mean = 14.7 larvae/m², range = 3.7–26.7 larvae/m²) observed in 10 streams by Beamish and Lowartz (1996). In fact, nearly half (46%; 6 of 13 streams) of the Minnesota streams had maximum densities lower than the lowest stream maximum of Beamish and Lowartz (1996). Lower maximum densities can be indicative of reduced population sizes, poorer quality habitat or both. However, without information on the total amount of habitat available for lamprey larvae in each stream, it is not possible to estimate the impact of these lower maximum densities on the overall populations of *L. appendix* within these streams. Lower densities of larvae scattered throughout a more extensive habitat can compensate for the lack of a few, isolated groups of larvae at high densities.

Despite good densities of American brook lamprey larvae in many southeastern Minnesota streams, and the lack of a relationship between larval density and the number of age classes present in a stream, the reduced age structures observed at six of the nine stream sites examined is of concern. Missing age classes have been observed previously in populations of *Lampetra appendix* and other species of lamprey (Schaffner, 1902; Okkelberg, 1922; Hubbs, 1925; Thomas, 1962; Morman, 1979; Trautman, 1981; Seagle and Nagel, 1982). There is no evidence that American brook lamprey larvae segregate by size among different sites (Beamish and Lowartz, 1996), so missing age classes are not an artifact of sampling location. Missing or weak year classes in fish populations are common and can result from a wide array of environmental and biological causes (Scalet *et al.*, 1996; Ross, 1997). It is possible that missing year classes are characteristic of, and possibly normal for, populations of American brook lamprey on the periphery of their geographic range.

The reduction or loss of a single age class should not be a major problem and, in *Lampetra appendix* is semelparous with individuals requiring >5 y to reach maturity (Seagle and Nagel, 1982), and these may be older year classes of lamprey larvae may undergo metamorphosis (Morkert *et al.*, 1998). However, if older year classes are present (*e.g.*, Beaver Creek and Minnesota streams), lamprey populations likely are at risk of being extirpated by flooding, interfere with spring spawning of other species of lamprey larvae. The flood-prone nature of streams and the brief (<1 wk) spawning period of American brook lamprey is a concern in this scenario. For example, lamprey larvae were present in 1999, but following several years with severe drought, they were absent in 2004 despite intensive sampling at several sites.

Degraded habitat also can be a cause of extirpation of American brook lamprey. Adult American brook lamprey require gravel for spawning (Cochran *et al.*, 1993). Lack of suitable spawning substrates in Ruppel Creek, Minnesota, for example, spawning substrates in Ruppel Creek were displaced. Only during years when sufficient numbers of gravel are available to displace these sediments will spawning by American brook lamprey spawners and successful spawning occur. American brook lamprey spawn only once in 5 y, with generally only two age classes observed in most years.

American brook lamprey larvae in Minnesota are not identical to those reported for two other *Lampetra* species (*L. macrochorda*; *et al.*, 1976) and Ontario (Lanteigne *et al.*, 1993). The life history of those exhibited by larvae of other lamprey species, such as *L. aepyptera*; Manion and McLain, 1971; and *L. macrochorda*; the lifestyle of these organisms limits the degradation of their habitat and populations.

The status of the American brook lamprey in Minnesota, though declines and losses have occurred, is not at the center of its range, it is the most abundant species (Morman, 1979). Recent surveys in Wisconsin and Minnesota show populations widespread and abundant than previously reported (Cochran, pers. comm.). Records indicate that American brook lamprey populations are present in nine drainages in Minnesota (MDNR, 1993). The present lack of public awareness (Mundahl, 1996) in a wide geographic area tend to support their status from protected status in Minnesota in 1996. The status of *L. appendix* has disappeared from a Minnesota stream, potentially at risk because of low densities of larvae, habitat threats and spawning and/or early death of larvae. Problems, and the species' limited capacity to recover from problems of reduced or extirpated populations. Based on the data available (*e.g.*, Beamish and Lowartz, 1996

However, densities of lamprey larvae were no streams than in those with coarser sediments.

DISCUSSION

Larvae varied dramatically within and among habitats judged most suitable for larvae. Varying densities are not unusual for this (Beamish and Lowartz, McLain, 1971; Potter *et al.*, 1986; Beamish and Lowartz, 1996). Much of the variation in densities can be attributed to differences in sediment particle size composition. The abundance of American brook lamprey larvae in medium-fine sand (0.15–0.25 mm diam); comparing finer and coarser sediments (Anderson *et al.*, 1993; present study, densities of larvae displayed no significant effect on densities of *Lampetra appendix* and Lowartz, 1996; present study). Larval densities of American brook lamprey larvae in suitable habitats as in the present study are not comparable to those reported in the latter study included habitats where maximum densities from the 13 streams in the present study were 5.40 larvae/m^2 , range = $0.33\text{--}16.67 \text{ larvae/m}^2$, than maximum densities (median = 11.8 larvae/m^2 , range = $7\text{--}26.7 \text{ larvae/m}^2$) observed in 10 streams by Beamish and Lowartz (1996). The lowest stream maximum of Beamish and Lowartz (1996) can be indicative of reduced population sizes, but information on the total amount of habitat available is not possible to estimate the impact of these reductions of *L. appendix* within these streams. A more extensive habitat can compensate for high densities.

Brook lamprey larvae in many southeastern streams show a relationship between larval density and the number of age structures observed at six of the nine streams. Age classes have been observed previously in populations of lamprey (Schaffner, 1902; Okkelberg, 1922; Hubbs, 1925; Seagle and Nagel, 1982; Trautman, 1981; Seagle and Nagel, 1982). Brook lamprey larvae segregate by size among streams so missing age classes are not an artifact of sampling in fish populations are common and can be caused by biological causes (Scalet *et al.*, 1996; Ross, 1996). This is characteristic of, and possibly normal for, the periphery of their geographic range.

The reduction or loss of a single age class in a population of American brook lamprey should not be a major problem and, in most cases, should be only temporary. Although *Lampetra appendix* is semelparous with a 5-y life cycle (Okkelberg, 1922; Hubbs, 1925), individuals requiring >5 y to reach maturity are present in many systems (Thomas, 1962; Seagle and Nagel, 1982), and these may spawn in place of a missing year class. In addition, older year classes of lamprey larvae may be missing in streams with rapid growth and early metamorphosis (Morkert *et al.*, 1998). However, in streams where only one or two age classes are present (*e.g.*, Beaver Creek and Middle Branch Whitewater River), American brook lamprey populations likely are at risk of being lost if environmental conditions, such as flooding, interfere with spring spawning and/or development of eggs and newly hatched larvae. The flood-prone nature of streams in southeastern Minnesota (Waters, 1977) and the brief (<1 wk) spawning period of American brook lamprey makes this a very possible scenario. For example, lamprey larvae were common in South Branch Whitewater River in 1999, but following several years with severe prolonged floods, no lamprey were collected in 2004 despite intensive sampling at several sites.

Degraded habitat also can be a cause of missing age classes in populations of American brook lamprey. Adult American brook lamprey require riffle areas with clean substrate for spawning (Cochran *et al.*, 1993). Lack of such areas will severely impair spawning efforts. For example, spawning substrates in Rupprecht Creek are buried beneath >5 cm of fine silt. Only during years when sufficient numbers of spawners are present to dig through and displace these sediments will spawning be successful. Large numbers of American brook lamprey spawners and successful spawning have been observed in this stream by the authors only once in 5 y, with generally only two or three adults and no active spawning nests observed in most years.

American brook lamprey larvae in Minnesota exhibited length–weight patterns virtually identical to those reported for two other *Lampetra appendix* populations in Delaware (Rohde *et al.*, 1976) and Ontario (Lanteigne *et al.*, 1981). These patterns also were very similar to those exhibited by larvae of other lamprey species (sea lamprey, least brook lamprey *L. aepyptera*; Manion and McLain, 1971; Rohde *et al.*, 1976), indicating that the burrowing lifestyle of these organisms limits the degree of allometric variation possible among species and populations.

The status of the American brook lamprey in North America is apparently secure, even though declines and losses have occurred in some regions (NatureServe, 2003). In the center of its range, it is the most abundant and widely distributed lamprey species (*e.g.*, Morman, 1979). Recent surveys in Wisconsin suggest that *Lampetra appendix* may be far more widespread and abundant than previously believed (Lyons *et al.*, 2000), with many small populations avoiding detection until recent advances in stream electrofishing equipment (P. Cochran, pers. comm.). Records indicate that the species has been found in 46 streams in nine drainages in Minnesota (MDNR, 1995; Hatch *et al.*, 2003), and many of the state's American brook lamprey populations are healthy, despite past habitat threats and the present lack of public awareness (Mundahl, 1998). Good populations in many streams over a wide geographic area tend to support the decision to remove American brook lamprey from protected status in Minnesota in 1996. However, at least one formerly large population of *L. appendix* has disappeared from a Minnesota stream (Phillips *et al.*, 1982), and others are potentially at risk because of low densities of larvae and missing age classes. Continuing habitat threats and spawning and/or early development failures are the likely causes of these problems, and the species' limited capacity for dispersal (Morman, 1979) inhibits recovery of reduced or extirpated populations. Based on what little comparative information is available (*e.g.*, Beamish and Lowartz, 1996), more information is needed on *L. appendix*,

especially on the periphery of its range in Minnesota, to adequately document current populations and assess their susceptibility to human activities. Additionally, with our knowledge of the habitat needs of American brook lamprey larvae, the amount of suitable habitat in area streams should be quantified to determine their ability to support viable populations of lamprey. Only after such information is in hand can it be decided whether or not the American brook lamprey should receive protected status in Minnesota.

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Minnesota, to adequately document current brook lamprey larvae, the amount of suitable habitat to determine their ability to support viable populations is in hand can it be decided whether brook lampreys receive protected status in Minnesota.

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Spatial and Temporal Darter Abundance North-central

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ABSTRACT.—Little is known about the habitat use of the goldstripe darter (*Etheostoma* species associates and habitat use of this pine plantations in north-central Mississippi among sampling periods differed among of goldstripe darters exhibited significant while the remaining 10 streams did not. Goldstripe darters exhibited the greatest *culatus*), brown madtom (*Noturus phaeus*). Goldstripe darter abundance was positively and sand. Our results suggest that managed forested riparian zones adjacent to first-order goldstripe darters.

The goldstripe darter (*Etheostoma parvum* subgenus *Fuscatelum* (Bart and Taylor, 1999) by the lack of bright breeding colors, the line (Bart and Taylor, 1999). Goldstripe from eastern Texas to central Georgia extent in southeastern Missouri and southern Goldstripe darter populations are considered within its distribution across the southeastern this species is considered rare or endangered (Arkansas, Missouri) and the eastern-most (Pigg, 1999; Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission Heritage Program, 2003; Herbert and G...)

Understanding the ecology and habitat developing recovery plans designed to Unfortunately, information on the ecology Mississippi and other portions of its range concerning the habitat use of the goldstripe contained in regional ichthyological surveys captured from small springs and spring

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