

Current Status

Main biological surveys of NSW are completed
 Morphological examinations complete
 Distributions all species mapped
 Draft paper written
 Due for publication early 2010

Project: 100043

Identification of the freshwater crayfish genus *Cherax* Erichson (Decapoda: Parastacidae) of New South Wales, Australia.

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Abstract: Ongoing aquatic biological surveys of NSW as part of the Australian Crayfish Project (ACP) has discovered new information on the NSW *Cherax* species biology, ecology and distribution. The results of these extensive surveys over the last 5 years are utilised in this paper. *Cherax* crayfish are the most widely dispersed freshwater crayfish species in NSW. They are robust, fast growing, highly fecund and subject to translocation generating ecological concerns. As the species most commonly encountered it is becoming increasingly important to easily identify the different *Cherax* species endemic to NSW. We provide keys to identify the five different NSW genera *Cherax*, *Engaeus*, *Euastacus*, *Gramastacus* and *Tenuibranchiurus*. Then keys to distinguish the five *Cherax* species endemic to NSW, *Cherax cuspidatus*, *Cherax destructor*, *Cherax* sp.nov, *Cherax leckii* and *Cherax setosus*.

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