

Current Status

Biological surveys ongoing.

Initial keys under review.

Completion proposed June 2010

Project: 100044

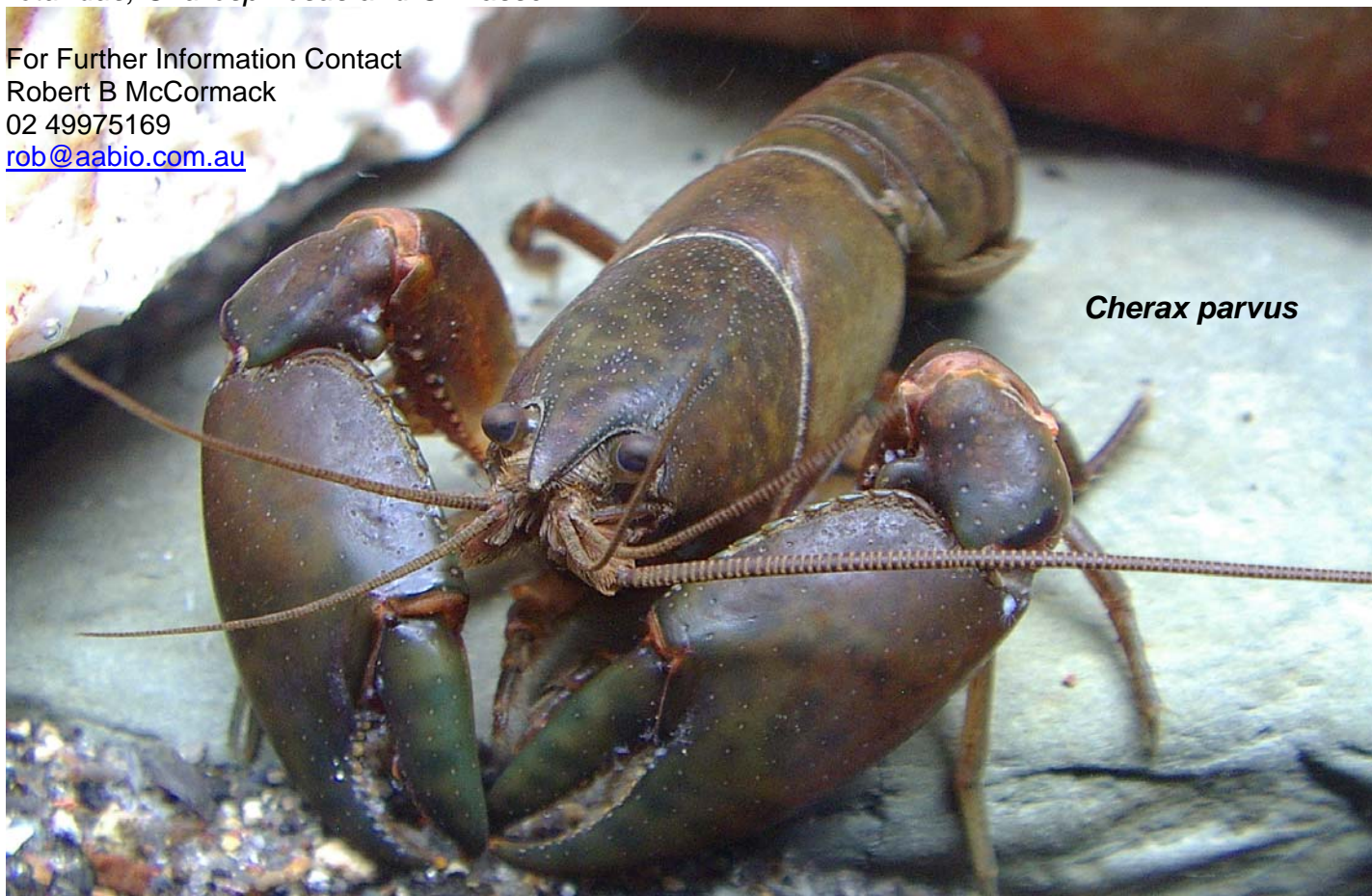
Identification of the freshwater crayfish genus *Cherax* Erichson (Decapoda: Parastacidae) of Queensland, Australia.

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Abstract: Ongoing aquatic biological surveys of Queensland as part of the Australian Crayfish Project (ACP) has discovered new information on the Qld *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 Qld. 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 Qld. We provide keys to identify the different Qld genera *Cherax*, *Euastacus*, and *Tenuibranchiurus*. Then keys to distinguish the thirteen *Cherax* species endemic to Qld, *Cherax cairnsensis*, *C. cartalacoolah*, *C. cuspidatus*, *C. depressus*, *C. destructor*, *C. dispar*, *C. parvus*, *C. quadricarinatus*, *C. rhynchotus*, *C. robustus*, *C. rotundus*, *C. urospinus* and *C. wasselli*.

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Cherax parvus