

# Australian Aquatic Biological Pty Limited

A.C.N. 127 431 118

Project: 100002

## A newly discovered species of freshwater crayfish Genus *Euastacus* (Decapodia: Parastacidae) from central eastern New South Wales, Australia

### Research Brief

#### Aims

The aim of this project is to describe a new species of freshwater crayfish from central eastern NSW. First discovered in 2005 as part of the Australian Crayfish Project biological surveys being conducted in NSW. Samples sent to Deakin University at Warrnambool were DNA tested by Professor Chris Austin who is one of Australia's foremost experts on freshwater crayfish and was assisting in the identification of freshwater crayfish for the Australian Crayfish Project. DNA test results were unusual in that they showed no close relationship to *E. reductus* and *E. mirangudjin* as expected but a close relationship to *E. valentulus/sulcatus*, *E. gumar* and *E. dangadi*. Confirmation of this being a new species has now led to this description.

#### Outline

The MS paper is a joint works between Robert B McCormack- Australian Aquatic Biological & Dr Shane Ahyong – Australian Museum, Sydney NSW.

#### Update

Currently this paper is on hold. Further biological surveying of the streams in the area has found some interesting anomalies and this has led to a major survey of the whole region. Full aquatic biological surveys of the whole Mt Royal Range and adjoining Great Divide have been conducted and the information is currently being recorded in a group of papers on the species and their distributions in this area.

For Further Information  
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*Euastacus* sp. 3.