

The Liverpool Range

Have been out and about surveying the Liverpool Range of NSW. This is a unique area as it's a high mountain range basically in the middle of nowhere. It's the tail end of the Warrumbungle Range just north east of Coolah NSW. There is a National Park there – Coolah Tops National Park and it's a great place to visit. The park is an elevated forest area surrounded by intensely farmed and grazed land below. It's a volcanic basalt area with large open forests and some steep rock valleys so it was a bit of an effort to hike up and down the mountains.



Spec 1829 40g-40.21mmOCL. Above Rocky Creek Falls 1081m, Coolah Tops National Park

There are some very nice mountain streams at the top of this range around the 1100m mark and most of these streams flow off the escarpment with large waterfalls to the streams below. All the streams that drain the range drain into western NSW which is the home land of the Yabby *Cherax destructor*. To me this was the ideal location to find something different as the waterfalls can act as barriers to yabbies and I spent quite a bit of time hiking around up and down the mountains sampling the streams. There were absolutely perfect *Euastacus* habitat streams but unfortunately I was unable to locate any *Euastacus* crayfish. Lots of *Cherax destructor* up to around 1100m but not much above that height. The yabbies were a nice green colouration and some quite big ones but nothing unusual. Absolutely heaps of galaxids and tadpoles in the higher streams but not much else. It's a great range with good camping and picnic areas. I was there mid week and had the whole Park to myself so not a big tourist area.

