



### *Cherax parvus*

This is a surprisingly small *Cherax* species that lives in a relatively remote area west of Innisfail. They live in tributaries of the Tully River high up the catchment. This trip was especially difficult as it was after dark which makes things far more difficult. Anyway, we pushed on and started searching the creeks at night for this elusive crayfish species. The creeks that flow through the area are wide, deep, fast flowing crystal clear streams. They are sandy creeks with beaches and sand bars with just the odd rock and fallen tree in them every so often.

*Cherax parvus* were quick little critters and you would see one but it would scoot away never to be seen again. We persevered late into the night and unfortunately we did not see any crays out in the creek but we did manage to get some from under structures along the stream edge. It was surprising that these crays can survive in a stream full of large fish and shrimp that could easily prey on them. *Cherax parvus* are small with a dark olive green and brown mottled colouring and the main distinguishing feature is a patch of long setae along the dorsal cutting edges and the lack of colouring in their claw tips, (most Queensland *Cherax* species have bright red or orange tips to their claws).



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