

**The Setose Yabby**  
*Cherax Setosus*



## The Setose Yabby *Cherax setosus*

Jason and I have just completed a paper on the Setose Yabby *Cherax setosus* and it is due for publication shortly. This was originally 2 separate papers but the two papers have now been combined into the one below.

### *Taxonomy, distribution and ecology of the Setose Yabby, Cherax setosus (Riek 1951).*

*Robert B. McCormack & Jason Coughran*

This is the second paper in the series that intends to clarify the *rotundus* – *setosus* confusion. There are 3 species in Australia that bare lateral propodal setation on the ventral surface of the claw. These three species are; *Cherax rotundus*, *Cherax setosus* and *Cherax sp.* There has been much confusion over the years with the morphology, distribution and names of these 3 species. The ACP has been researching all 3 species for the last 5 years and the culmination of that research is this series of papers to clarify all 3 species.

The first paper in the series has been published - O'Brien, A., Coughran, J. and McCormack, R. 2009. On the existence of *Cherax rotundus* in the Severn area, south-eastern Queensland. Queensland Naturalist 47(4-6): 41-51.

The third paper is on the crayfish species from the Murray drainage basin in Victoria and NSW. This paper is in prep and will also be published shortly:

The fourth paper in this series is a redescription of the original species *Cherax rotundus* from the Severn, Queensland. We are close to doing something with tracking down this species. It's been a very long hard search and 14 surveys have produced no results but that's 14 surveys that have defined the locations for the species. We know how not to find it and where it does not occur, but we also know where it may occur. For those of you that think its extinct, stay tuned, it's the hardest species we have ever searched for but we are confident that we can track it down, it may not be this week or this month or even this year but every time we hit the field we learn a little more both on the species and the original collector, Ned Sutton who collected the original specimens that were described by Ellen Clark in 1941. We are not only researching the species but we are researching Ned Sutton an avid naturalist from Fletcher Queensland who had a passion for collecting beetles, bugs and crayfish. Ned was an orchardist from the Stanthorpe area in Queensland, he managed his 20 acres single handed and finally had to retire due to a weak heart and spent his retirement collecting specimens. His life and exploits is an amazing tail of an incredible man. He also kept journals of his exploits and collections, if we can ever track down the journal for the *C. rotundus* crayfish that will be most helpful. Expedition 14 will be researching one of his favourite haunts for collecting and we will head towards the scrub above Rivertree in NSW, stay tuned, the never ending search continues.



*Cherax* nsp. Victoria

