

Project: 100067

**Taxonomy, distribution and ecology of the cusped yabby
Cherax cuspidatus (Riek 1969).**

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Research Summary

Abstract

Cherax cuspidatus is a relatively widespread freshwater crayfish from the mid-north and northern coasts of NSW. This region is experiencing rapid development resulting in the species being increasingly affected by anthropogenic impacts.

Cherax crayfish of coastal NSW and Queensland are all very similar morphologically, making species identification difficult. This problem is amplified by the lack of a detailed morphological description of *C. cuspidatus* to current taxonomic standards. Additionally, little is known on the species distribution, biology or ecology presenting significant knowledge gaps for management agencies and researchers. These research gaps on *C. cuspidatus* are inadequate given the species distribution across a rapidly developing, heavily urbanised area predicted to be impacted by rapid climate change. To facilitate future management initiatives and research, in this paper we provide a detailed morphological redescription of *C. cuspidatus* that builds on Riek's 1969 original description, record information on distribution & biology, and discuss conservation and management considerations.

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