

Australian Aquatic Biological Pty Limited

A.C.N. 127 431 118

Project: 10006

***Cherax destructor* distribution eastern drainage of NSW, Australia**

Status: Completed

Coughran, J., McCormack, R.B., Daly, G. 2009. Translocation of the Yabby, *Cherax destructor*, into eastern drainages of New South Wales, Australia. Australian Zoologist. Vol 35 (1).

Research Brief

Aims

As part of the Australian Crayfish Project biological surveys of huge areas of NSW were conducted and are currently being conducted in an ongoing research program. Increasingly the Yabby *Cherax destructor* was turning up in samples from eastern drainage NSW. In many cases the populations were large and the species was entrenched within these drainage systems never to be removed. This research project is to map the extent of current *Cherax destructor* distributions and to compile, record and present the collected data in a scientific paper.

Outline

The MS paper is a project of Robert B McCormack & Jason Coughran - Australian Aquatic Crayfish Project, with the help and support of a large number of volunteers working on the ACP.

Abstract

The Yabby *Cherax destructor* has a natural distribution across inland river systems in central and south-eastern Australia. Within that range it supports important recreational and commercial fisheries, and is also widely used for aquaculture and as a pet in the aquarium trade. Recently, the species has become established in parts of Australia outside its natural range. This paper documents sites of translocation in the coastal drainages of eastern New South Wales, Australia. Potential implications of these translocations are discussed with regard to the native aquatic fauna of the region. We draw particular attention to: (i) the native species of amphibian that are threatened by predation by introduced yabbies, and (ii) the native crayfish fauna threatened by competition with this species. The Fitzroy Falls Crayfish *Euastacus dharawalus* has a distribution restricted to one small catchment and *C. destructor* has been recently translocated into this creek. On the basis of these data, we propose to nominate *C. destructor* as a key threatening process under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* and *Euastacus dharawalus* as a threatened species, also under that Act.

For Further Information

Refer Project No.:100006

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