

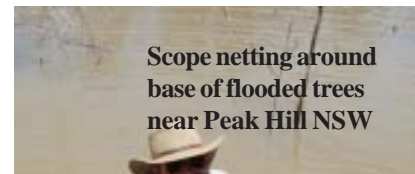
Western NSW

Once you get inland onto the western draining streams of NSW you are into *Cherax destructor* country and these are the primary species out west. That said there are quite a few species at the start of western drainage in the mountain streams and we have been investigating these species over the last few months. We have also been further west doing a bit of surveying and also recreational fishing at some of the larger dams and rivers. We make camp on the dam or river then use that campsite as our base to radiate out surveying streams. We are collecting specimens of *Cherax destructor* from across Australia and though they are all the same species there is considerable morphological variation between the different local/regional populations.



The Yabby *Cherax destructor*

It is quite fascinating the variation and the whole *destructor* complex really does need a redescription but I expect this will never be done as it would be an incredibly hard, massive and expensive task. For now we will just keep increasing our knowledge base on the species and its distribution and perhaps in 10 years time we will have accumulated enough information to understand this diverse species.



Scope netting around base of flooded trees near Peak Hill NSW



"3 clawed yabby"

We have been fishing for native fish to add a bit of fun to the surveying and have been doing quite well. Mostly golden perch (Yellowbelly) and though we have tried to catch a Murray Cod we have not been successful lately. Lots of carp still about and though they give a good fight they are not much good for anything else except yabby bait.

Deformed yabbies are always a surprise



Carp



Glenbawn Dam Yellowbelly



Stevan with a Keepit Dam Yellowbelly