

Australian Aquatic Biological Pty Limited

A.C.N. 127 431 118

Current Status

Main biological surveys of East Gippsland are completed

Paper written but awaiting publication with a series of papers on species from the region

Due for publication early 2012

Project: 100046

A new crayfish from the highlands of eastern Victoria, Australia.

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Abstract

A new species of freshwater crayfish, *Euastacus* n. sp2., is described from East Gippsland, Victoria, Australia. This new *Euastacus* species occurs in permanent small to medium cool flowing streams in warm temperate to cool temperate rainforests, and is widely distributed from 300m to over 1000m above sea level. The species is morphologically closest to *E. diversus* and *E. bidawalus* and represents an isolated distribution between the two. This new species can be distinguished from these two similar species by differing in the spination of the rostrum, thorax, abdomen and shape of the rostrum and gastric mill. A key is provided to distinguish *E. n. sp.* from the two other similar species of *Euastacus* found in the region. This new species is restricted to a small area, and its conservation status is discussed.

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