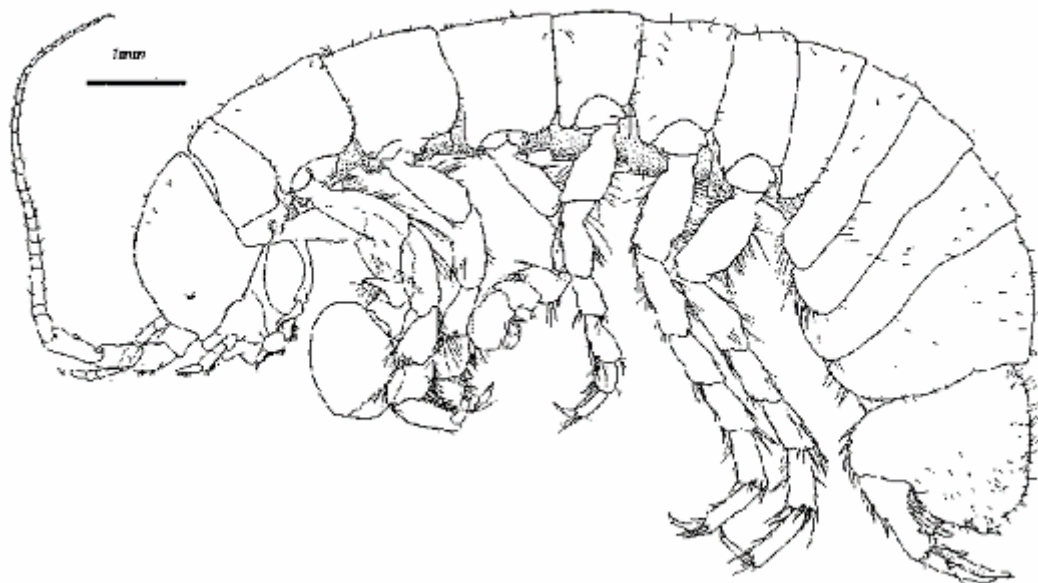


Crenoicus harrisoni



Crenoicus harrisoni (Source: Nicholls 1944)

Threatened Species Unit

Fisheries Conservation and Aquaculture,
Port Stephens

Introduction

Crenoicus harrisoni is currently only known to inhabit a spring flowing into Saxby's Swamp in the Barrington Tops wilderness area, where it lives among the roots of mosses and other plants. Detailed surveys of aquatic crustaceans in the Mt Royal and Barrington Tops region have not found any examples of the species outside this site.

Crenoicus harrisoni is listed as a protected species in NSW under the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*. Heavy penalties apply for taking or possessing them.

Description

Crenoicus harrisoni is a small, aquatic isopod crustacean measuring 9–10 mm in length. It is grey and brown with light-coloured legs. Both adults and young are blind, cannot swim and are generally slow moving, especially during the cold season. They have bright white patches on their head where their eyes should be.

Crenoicus harrisoni are relatively abundant in the particular spring where they occur, reaching densities of approximately 10–100 per square metre.

Habitat and ecology

- Populations of species in the genus *Crenoicus* breed continuously, with a peak of offspring appearing during spring and a possible slowdown during the winter.
- Young are brooded in a pouch and are released as small adults (but lacking the last walking leg).

- Individuals are largely sedentary, living among the roots of mosses and other plants in the silty gravel substrates of springs or swamps.
- This species does not have a dispersal stage, and as a result can only be found within a small area.

Why are *Crenoicus harrisoni* protected?

- The species has a highly restricted distribution and therefore any disturbance could have significant and long-term impacts.
- Although the spring flowing into Saxby's Swamp is within the Barrington Tops National Park, impacts from human water use at this site such as for camping or day visitation could cause irreparable damage to the spring and eventual extinction of this species.

What conservation actions are underway?

- Cooperation between NSW Department of Primary Industries and the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service to ensure the protection of *Crenoicus harrisoni* and its habitat.
- Implementing the Protected, Threatened and Pest Species Sighting Program. Report any sightings of the species on the NSW DPI 24 hour automated message-taking service by calling (02) 4916 3877.

Legal implications

Taking or possessing *Crenoicus harrisoni* is an offence and heavy penalties apply. For corporations these penalties can include fines of up to \$55 000 while individuals can face fines of up to \$11 000 and up to 3 months in prison.

Bibliography and further reading

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For further information

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