

Fact sheet

Identification Guide: Native v Signal Crayfish

August 2011

1. Rostrum

The rostrum of the native crayfish has sides which converge to form a triangular shape, tapering to a point at the apex. On the signal crayfish the sides of the rostrum are parallel, forming a shoulder behind the pointed apex. The red circled areas show the rostrum.



Native crayfish

Signal crayfish

2. Post-orbital ridges

The post-orbital ridges are small raised ridges directly behind the eyes that terminate in a spine. The native crayfish has one post-orbital ridge while the signal crayfish has two. Red arrows highlight location of post-orbital ridges.



Native crayfish

Signal crayfish

3. Cervical groove

The cervical groove is located on the carapace, directly behind the head. On the native crayfish a row of spines are present just behind the cervical groove while on the signal crayfish this area is smooth. Red arrows highlight location of spines/no spines.



Native crayfish



Signal crayfish

4. Claws

The claws of the native crayfish have a rough top surface and the underside colour is dirty white to pink. The claws of the signal crayfish are smooth on both surfaces, the underside is red and there is a blue/white patch on the junction of the claw.



Native crayfish



Signal crayfish