

Freshwater Fishes and Crayfishes of Bancell Brook

NATIVE FISHES



western minnow (*Galaxias occidentalis*)



western pygmy perch (*Edelia vittata*)



nightfish (*Bostockia porosa*)



spotted minnow (*Galaxias maculatus*)

INTRODUCED FISHES



mosquitofish (*Gambusia holbrooki*)



rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)



goldfish (*Carassius auratus*)



Typical drainage canal

Bancell Brook's headwaters, which arise on the western slopes of the Darling Scarp, are spring-fed and surrounded by jarrah forest. In contrast, the lower reaches of the brook are highly regulated and modified via the creation of drainage canals. A recent study by Murdoch University identified that the drains are dominated by the introduced mosquitofish, however also contain native fishes in areas where aquatic habitat is complex. The headwaters, while appearing to provide ideal habitat for native fishes, are dominated by stocked rainbow trout and the gilgie, an endemic freshwater crayfish. Rainbow trout are known to prey heavily on native fishes and their presence may be the reason native fishes are absent from the forested sections of the river. In Bancell Brook they were found to consume the native gilgie and also marron. Introduced yabbies are abundant in the lower section but are absent from the upper brook. Higher water temperatures experienced in the drainage canals are above the lethal limit of trout and marron and probably limit their downstream distribution. The spotted minnow, which in W.A. was previously only known from the rivers east of Denmark, has also been captured in Bancell Brook.

NATIVE CRAYFISHES

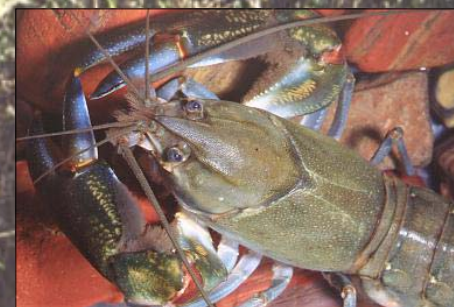


gilgie (*Cherax quinquecarinatus*)



marron (*Cherax cainii*)

INTRODUCED CRAYFISH



yabbie (*Cherax destructor albidus*)

by David Morgan
& Stephen Beatty