

## **Yabbies in Cork**

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A well-established colony of the yabby, *Cherax destructor*, an Australian crayfish species, has been discovered in a lake at a former quarry in Co. Cork. In Europe, colonies have previously been found only in Spain, Italy and France. According to scientific literature, while *C. destructor* is tolerant of water temperatures from 1°C to 35°C, metabolism ceases at temperatures below 16°C. Investigations at the site revealed the presence of a warm spring feeding the lake. No yabbies were found in a smaller, adjacent lake, nor in nearby watercourses. It is thought that this species, reportedly introduced via aquarium specimens, is unlikely to successfully invade other Irish waterbodies of normal temperatures.