

SUB-FOSSIL CRUSTACEANS FROM THE COASTS
OF AUSTRALIA.

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(Plates i-vii. ; Fig. 1.)

I.—INTRODUCTION.

At various beaches on the south, south-east, north, and north-west coasts of Australia, remains of Decapoda more or less encased in clay-nodules, are every now and then brought to light, but very few facts appear to have been gathered as to their mode of occurrence when *in situ*. Again, similar animal remains have been met with in excavating canals in delta deposits, only in such instances they are less markedly nodular, and have undergone a lesser degree of fossilisation. A third occurrence is that of river, or perhaps estuarine, deposits brought to light through dredging operations.

As an instance of the first mode of occurrence we cite Anson Bay, North-west Australia; of the second the Coode Canal, Yarra River Delta; and of the third dredging operations carried on at the mouth of the Brisbane River, Moreton Bay. All of these occurrences will be referred to later.

II.—HISTORY.

The first to describe one of these semi-fossil Decapoda from Australia was Prof. Thomas Bell, of King's College, London. It appears he received from Mr. W. Sharp Macleay, a macruran which he referred to the genus *Thalassina* as *T. emerii*, naming it after a "Mr. Emery" who apparently was the collector, but unfortunately neither locality nor geological information accompanied the specimen; it was simply said to have been derived from "New Holland." The first description of the *Thalassina* appeared in the "Proceedings