

# Redescriptions of the Australian Majid Spider Crabs *Leptomithrax gaimardii* (H. Milne Edwards) and *Paramithrax barbicornis* (Latreille)

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Plates 6 and 7. Figs. 1-14.

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## ABSTRACT

*Paramithrax gaimardii* H. Milne Edwards, 1834, is redescribed and figured from photographs of the holotype. It is regarded as a species of *Leptomithrax* Miers, 1876, conspecific with *L. australiensis* Miers, 1876, and *L. spinulosus* Haswell, 1880. *Paramithrax barbicornis* (Latreille, 1825) is also redescribed and figured and is considered synonymous with *Gonatorhynchus tumidus* Haswell, 1880, following Balss (1929). This species was designated as the type of the genus *Paramithrax* H. Milne Edwards, 1834, by Desmarest (1858) and the genus *Gonatorhynchus* Haswell, 1880, is consequently reduced to synonymy with *Paramithrax*.

## INTRODUCTION

In the first volume of H. Milne Edward's (1834) major work on the Crustacea a new species of oxyrhynch crab, *Paramithrax gaimardii*, supposedly collected in New Zealand waters by Quoy and Gaimard, was described, and placed in Section B of Milne Edward's new genus *Paramithrax*. Unfortunately, the description was hardly adequate enough to permit later identification of the species. Consequently, the only mention of this name in later literature was Miers's (1876a : 219) short description and misidentification of the species at present known as *Leptomithrax sternocostulatus* (H. Milne Edwards, 1851) as *P. gaimardii*, and Filhol's (1886 : 356) brief redescription of Milne Edward's original material. Fortunately, Miers's remarks on his *P. gaimardii* left little doubt as to which species he was actually referring, and the mistake was later corrected (Miers, 1879a).

In 1876 Miers (1876a : 219) divided the genus *Paramithrax* into two subgenera, *Paramithrax* (s.s.) and *Leptomithrax*. Included in the latter was a new Australian species, *L. australiensis*. In his description of this species Miers remarked that it bore a general resemblance to the new New Zealand species, *L. longimanus* (the preceding species), but "the carapace is covered with small spinules, and there are three or four larger spines on the branchial regions. Anterior legs shorter (than *L. longimanus*); hand slightly compressed and granulous at the base; palm about as long as the wrist. The whole animal is covered with short, stiff hairs curled at the tips" (Miers, 1876a : 220). No figure of *L. australiensis* was provided.

Haswell (1880a : 441, pl. xxv, fig. 3) described *Leptomithrax spinulosus* from material collected by Mr. Kendall Broadbent in Tasmania. It is interesting to note that this was the same locality from which Miers had earlier described *L. australiensis*.

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