

NOTES ON THE TAXONOMY AND ZOOGEOGRAPHY OF THE TASMANIAN GRAPSID AND OCYPODID CRABS (CRUSTACEA, BRACHYURA)

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ABSTRACT

Seven of the eleven species of shore crabs of the families Grapsidae and Ocypodidae occurring in Tasmania are considered; synonymies, detailed locality lists and comments on previous work are given; the remaining four species have been recently discussed in detail elsewhere by Campbell and Griffin (1966). The sesarminae *Paragrapsus laevis* (Dana) is recorded definitely from Tasmania for the first time. The status of this species and of *Leptograpsodes octodentatus* (H. Milne Edwards) is discussed. The zoogeographical relations of the Tasmanian grapsid and ocypodid fauna are considered.

INTRODUCTION

Until recently, ten species of shore crab belonging to the families Grapsidae and Ocypodidae were considered to be present in Tasmania. Except for two widespread species, the majority of these were described by the French carcinologist H. Milne Edwards around the middle of last century. Previous Australian monographs on Crustacea (Haswell, 1882b; Hale, 1927a) had dealt briefly with most of these, M. W. F. Tweedie (1942) had treated the Tasmanian species in more detail, whilst Guiler (1952a, 1956) gave additional distributional data. Recently, Campbell and Griffin (1966) have given detailed revisions of those species belonging to the subfamily Sesarminae. The included Tasmanian species were *Cyclograpsus granulatus*, *Helograpsus haswellianus*, *Paragrapsus quadridentatus*, and *P. gaimardii*. In the present paper the taxonomy of these species is not further considered. Another species dealt with by Campbell and Griffin was *Paragrapsus laevis*. The evidence they had available then suggested that this species probably does not occur in Tasmania, but in the present paper it is recorded from a few localities on the central east coast and one on the north coast; the taxonomic status of these populations is discussed.

As Campbell and Griffin (1966: 141) noted, the grapsid described by Jacquinot (in Jacquinot and Lucas, 1853) from "Hobart", *Cyclograpsus tasmanicus*, cannot be identified with any known species of *Cyclograpsus* or with any Tasmanian crab, and its status must remain uncertain for the present. During the course of the studies reported in part here, the status of two geographically widespread species, *Leptograpsus variegatus* and *Plagusia chabrus*, were investigated throughout their range. The results of these studies will be given in detail elsewhere and the two species are only briefly dealt with here.

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