

DEEPWATER DECAPOD CRUSTACEA FROM EASTERN AUSTRALIA: BRACHYURAN CRABS

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SUMMARY

Fourteen species of crabs from the lower continental shelf and slope off eastern Australia are discussed. Included are two new species, one belonging to the homolid genus *Homolochunia* (which is also recorded from near New Caledonia) and one belonging to the cymonomid genus *Cymonomus*. The majids *Cyrtomaia suhmi* and *Leptomithrax richardsoni*, the geryonid *Geryon affinis* and the goneplacid *Litocheira kingsleyi* are recorded from Australia for the first time. The new species are described and illustrated.

The deepwater crab fauna of eastern Australia as it is presently known is compared with that of other nearby areas in the Indo-West Pacific.

INTRODUCTION

The deepwater crab fauna of eastern Australia is at present known only from early work by the 'Challenger' (Miers, 1886), the 'Thetis' (Whitelegge, 1900), and 'Endeavour' (Rathbun, 1918, 1923) Expeditions, and from miscellaneous deep hauls (Grant, 1905, etc.). The same is true of South Australia, the work of Baker (1904-1907) being the main contribution.

Since 1971, New South Wales State Fisheries has been carrying out trawling experiments along the coast of New South Wales in relation to the distribution of prawns off the eastern Australian coast (see *Australian Fisheries*, November 1973, pp 24-29). Approximately 60 species of shrimps, lobsters and crabs have been taken during these hauls in depths of 100 to 1,000 metres.

The present paper is a report on the brachyuran crabs collected from 1971 to June 1975. Fourteen species are recorded. The material on which this report is based is in the collection of the Australian Museum, Sydney (AM). Each species account includes principal references, a list of material, localities (all off New South Wales unless otherwise stated), remarks where necessary and a summary of the geographic and bathymetric distribution. Measurements given are carapace length (cl.) or width (cw).

SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNT

Family HOMOLIDAE

Latreillopsis petterdi Grant

Latreillopsis petterdi Grant, 1905: 317-319, pl. 10 figs. 2, 2a, 2b.—Rathbun, 1923: 140-143, pl. 36.—Dell, 1963: 244-245.—Bennett, 1964: 27, fig. 109.—Takeda & Miyake, 1969: 159-161, fig. 1, pl. 1.