

Dr R. K. Dell, of the Dominion Museum, reports (pers. comm.) that the Colville Channel specimen of *Achaeus fissifrons* was also associated with *Petalomera wilsoni*, and that the Tasman Bay material was taken with *P. wilsoni*, the leucosiid crab *Ebalia* sp., and the two majids *Eurynome bituberculata* Griffin, 1964 and *Leptomithrax* sp. (possibly new, aff. *L. longipes* (Thomson)). It is interesting to note that *Petalomera wilsoni* occurs in each of the three collections we have details on. This easily overlooked sponge crab, from being one of the rarely recorded New Zealand species, has recently been recognised as widely occurring, though not perhaps abundant, shelf and occasionally intertidal, species.

For an Australian comparison, the "Endeavour" Reports reveal that the single "Endeavour" specimen of *A. fissifrons* identified by Rathbun (1918: 4) from "the eastern slope of Bass Strait in 70-80 fathoms", was taken in association with the following decapods (Brachyura only, from Rathbun, 1918, 1923; no other identifications available): the leucosiid *Merocryptus lambriformis* A. M. Edw., 1873; the majid *Scyramathia fultoni* (Grant, 1905); the xanthid *Pilumnus tomentosus* Latreille, 1825, and the goneplacid *Carcinoplax meridionalis* Rathbun, 1923. Of these only *M. lambriformis* (see Bennett, 1964) is known from New Zealand waters, though other species of *Pilumnus* and *Carcinoplax* occur.

Achaeus lacertosus Stimpson, 1857

Achaeus lacertosus Stimpson, 1857: 218; 1907: 20, Pl. III, fig. 7. Haswell, 1882: 3. Miers, 1884: 188; 1886: 8. Alcock, 1895: 172. Whitelegge, 1889: 225. Henderson, 1893: 341. Grant and McCulloch, 1906: 26, Pl. III, fig. 1. Rathbun, 1910: 316; 1924: 2. (?) Stephensen, 1945: 98, fig. 18C. Barnard, 1950: 19, figs. 3a, 3b.

Achaeus breviceps Haswell, 1880a: 433; 1880b: 146.

Achaeus spinifrons Sakai, 1938: 212, fig. 6.

TYPES. *A. lacertosus*: All Stimpson's type material, in the Chicago Academy of Sciences, was destroyed by fire in 1871. The type material of this species was taken in Port Jackson, N.S.W., in 6 fms on a muddy bottom. Stimpson's description is based on a male.

A. breviceps: The types of *A. breviceps* cannot now be identified with complete certainty. However, two specimens in the Australian Museum Collections, labelled as *A. lacertosus* (A.M. reg. G.5091, male, carapace length 8mm; female, carapace length 8mm, Port Jackson), were registered in 1905 with a large collection of Haswell's material containing the great majority of the types of his 1880a paper. By 1882, Haswell had already recognised his *A. breviceps* as a synonym of *A. lacertosus*, and as these two specimens are the only specimens of *A. lacertosus* registered with the collection, it is reasonable to assume that they are the types of *A. breviceps*. The type locality was Port Jackson. We confirm the identification of these two specimens as *A. lacertosus*.

A. spinifrons: Holotype, ovigerous female, carapace length 6.3mm, Nagasaki, Japan, Mr I. Kaneko. Two Paratypes, southern Japanese localities, 1 ovigerous female and 1 male.

MATERIAL EXAMINED. All material examined is from Australian localities and in the Australian Museum, Sydney. A total of 16 specimens as follows: Masthead Island, Capricorn Group, Queensland, 1 ♀ (G.5940), (see Grant and McCulloch, 1906). Port Stephens, N.S.W., old collection, 1 ♂, 1 ovig. ♀. (P.162) (probably basis of Haswell's (1882) record). Port Stephens, dredged, E. A. Briggs, Jan. 1920, 1 ♂ (P.4871). Off Red Rocks, Port Stephens, 3-7 fms, dredged,