

Ward, 1933, from Australia, was added fifteen years later. It should be noted here that in the present paper the Australian species, *Paramithrax spatulifer* and *P. coppingeri*, both described by Haswell (1882a and 1882b respectively) are not referable to *Paramithrax* but either to the genus *Acanthophrys* A. Milne Edwards or *Chlorinoides* Haswell and should not be confused with the group of species dealt with in the present paper.

In 1880 Haswell (1880) described and figured *Gonatorhynchus tumidus*, a new genus and species of majid crab from Australia. Later workers had no difficulty in recognising this species, and the name became well established in the Australian literature. Balss's (1929) important revision of the majid Oxyrhyncha included two main points of interest relevant to the present account. Firstly, he was able to show that *Paramithrax barbicornis* and *Gonatorhynchus tumidus* were conspecific, the holotype of the former being figured for the first time. Prior to 1876 it had been assumed that *P. barbicornis* occurred in New Zealand as well as Australia. However, both Miers (1876a, 1876b) and Filhol (1885, 1886) considered that *P. barbicornis* (Latreille) was not part of the New Zealand fauna, but that the New Zealand form, previously called by that name, was specifically distinct. Miers gave this species the name *Paramithrax latreillei* and Filhol *Paramithrax cristatus*. The latter author went further than Miers in that he created a new genus for Latreille's species, *Lobophrys*. Balss followed Filhol in this regard, and the species *barbicornis* Latreille was retained in Haswell's *Gonatorhynchus*. Between 1886 and 1929, species *barbicornis* received no mention in the literature. Balss therefore brought to light the identity of a previously obscure species. Secondly, Balss reduced *Paramithrax latreillei* Miers to synonymy with a very old species, *Cancer ursus* Herbst, 1788, retained it within *Paramithrax*, and recorded it from Australia for the first time. Unfortunately, these decisions of Balss seem to have been overlooked by later workers, *P. ursus* being recorded from Australia for the second time as *P. latreillei* by McNeill (1953), and the latter name has also appeared in recent New Zealand literature (see Richardson, 1949; Dell, 1960).

Thus, of the ten species referred to *Paramithrax* (*Paramithrax*) since its inception, one, *P. barbicornis*, has been transferred to *Gonatorhynchus* Haswell, one, *P. longipes* Thomson, has been regarded as belonging to the genus *Leptomithrax* Miers by most recent workers such as Richardson (1949) and Dell (1960), while one other, *P. gaimardii* H. Milne Edwards, is now also considered to be a species of *Leptomithrax*, and is almost certainly restricted to Australia (see Griffin, in press). This leaves a group of seven species inhabiting intertidal and shallow offshore waters, six of which are restricted to the Australasian region, *P. peronii* and *P. minor* having been recorded from Australia on several occasions (Haswell, 1882c; Hodgson, 1902; Fulton and Grant, 1906; Rathbun, 1918) and *P. ursus* on two, as noted above; there is a distinct possibility that the locality given by H. Milne Edwards (1834) for *P. peronii*—viz., Indian Ocean, is a mistake for New Zealand. At least two species, *P. parvus* and *P. parvispinosus*, are very poorly known, each having been described only once and then from but a single small specimen. Miers's (1879b) designation of *P. peronii* H. Milne Edwards as the type species of *Paramithrax* has been widely accepted up to the present. This, then is the current concept of the genus *Paramithrax* H. Milne Edwards, 1834, as included, for instance, by Balss (1957: 1628) in the list of the genera of Oxyrhyncha of the World.

The need for the present note stems from the statement by Ward (1933: 392) that the type species of *Paramithrax* is *P. barbicornis* (Latreille), having been so designated by Desmarest (1858: 14). I quote here Desmarest's own words: