

"*Paramithrax* Edw.: groupe ne renfermant qu'un petit nombre d'espèces particulière à l'Australasie, et dont le type est la *Pisa barbicornis* Latreille."

Dr John S. Garth and Dr L. B. Holthuis (pers. comm.) have both confirmed the validity of this type designation by Desmarest. Clearly, therefore, the species *barbicornis* of Latreille must be included in *Paramithrax*, and the genera *Lobophrys* Filhol and *Gonatorhynchus* Haswell thereby become junior objective synonyms of it. Miers's designation of *P. peronii* as the type species of *Paramithrax* must, on the other hand, be regarded as invalid. This procedure raises some complications for, as already noted in this paper, *P. barbicornis* has been considered, by Filhol and by Balss, to be generically distinct from all the other species placed in *Paramithrax* by Milne Edwards, Miers, and later workers. If Filhol and Balss are correct in this view then a new genus is required for those species.

Consideration of the problems introduced above was made practically possible by examination of a specimen of *P. barbicornis* sent, by kind permission of Dr J. W. Evans, Director of the Australian Museum, Sydney, by Mr F. A. McNeill, the then Curator of Crustacea. Specimens of three of the New Zealand species of *Paramithrax* s.l., *P. peronii*, *P. minor* and *P. ursus*, have also been examined. The remainder of the present paper is devoted to the setting up and definition of a new genus, a redefinition of *Paramithrax* s.s., and a discussion of the several points outlined above. Finally, the systematic position of *Paramithrax parvispinosus* Ward is considered following re-examination of the type specimen. The terminology used follows Rathbun (1925) and Garth (1958).

SYSTEMATICS

Family MAJIDAE Samouelle, 1819

Subfamily MAJINAE Alcock, 1895; restricted Balss, 1929

Genus NOTOMITHRAX gen. nov.

Paramithrax H. Milne Edwards, 1834: 323 (part: *P. peronii* H. Milne Edwards, 1834). Miers, 1876a: 219 (subgenus *Paramithrax* part); 1876b: 5 (part); 1879b: 655. Haswell, 1882c: 12 (part). Rathbun, 1893: 66 (part); 1918: 17; 1925: 338. Alcock, 1895: 240 (part). Balss, 1929: 18. Richardson, 1949: 65 (in key). Garth, 1958: 344.

DIAGNOSIS: Carapace pyriform, densely tuberculated or spinous dorsally. Rostrum of two divergent spines separate from their base. Orbit consisting above of a broad, laterally rounded supraorbital eave with a prominent spine at posterolateral corner, anterolateral corner sometimes also produced into a small spine; an intercalated spine, and a long, conical, postorbital spine remote from orbit; eave, intercalated spine and postorbital spine separated by wide, deep fissures. Eyestalks slender, never reaching postorbital spine, cornea small, terminal. Basal antennal article broad, subrectangular, of even width throughout, lateral edge not notched, anterolateral and anteromedial angles each produced into a well developed spine of which at least anteromedial is forwardly directed.

Merus of third maxilliped subquadrate, not greatly expanded laterally, deeply notched distally, a sharp, prominent spine at lateral angle of notch.

Chelipeds much longer than carapace in adult male, merus with a few spines or tubercles dorsally, carpus with two longitudinal ridges converging proximally, usually one dorsal and one obliquely crossing lateral surface; chela enlarged distally in male, fixed finger more or less strongly excavated basally, fingers thus gaping at bases.

Abdomen of seven distinct segments in both sexes. Male abdomen widest at middle of third segment; seventh segment subtriangular to subquadrate, basal width greatly exceeding length, distal edge weakly convex.

Male first pleopod slender, outwardly curved distally, tip finely pointed, setose; aperture located a short distance from tip, basal lip of aperture weakly expanded as a fleshy lobe.

RANGE: New Zealand, south-east Australia, Norfolk Island, extending eastward to Juan Fernandez off the coast of Chile.