

# DEMANIA MACNEILLI, A NEW SPECIES OF XANTHID CRAB FROM NORTHERN QUEENSLAND (CRUSTACEA: DECAPODA)<sup>1</sup>.

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## SUMMARY

The first occurrence of the genus *Demania* in Australian waters is reported with the description and illustration of *D. macneilli*, new species, from off northeastern and central eastern Queensland in from 17 to 20 fathoms. The new species is compared with other members of the genus, which inhabits the Indian and western Pacific oceans and is known to contain species poisonous to man:

## INTRODUCTION

While on sabbatical leave from the University of Southern California during the early part of 1973, the writer spent a fortnight, March 15-29, at the Australian Museum, Sydney, reviewing the crabs of the family Xanthidae preparatory to undertaking field studies along the Queensland coast. He was greatly assisted in this familiarization process by an unpublished list of Australian Decapoda prepared by F. A. McNeill, J. C. Yaldwyn and D. J. G. Griffin, late past, recent past, and present curators of Crustacea, respectively, that enabled him to tell at a glance which of the Australian species were known to occur in Queensland waters, as distinct from those of New South Wales on the one hand and the Northern Territory on the other. Having recently described a poisonous species of the genus *Demania* Laurie (1906) from the Philippines, *D. toxica* Garth (1971), the writer was particularly interested to find listed from Queensland a *Demania* sp. which on preliminary inspection appeared unlike any with which he was familiar. That he should be entrusted with the study of these crabs, and with their ultimate description, did not occur to him at the time; however, when after his return to the United States in August, 1973, at the suggestion of J. C. Yaldwyn, now at the National Museum of New Zealand, Wellington, he was asked by Diane E. Brown, assistant in the Department of Marine Invertebrates, to have a further look at them, he accepted with alacrity. They proved, as Miss Brown had surmised, not to fit the characteristics of *D. toxica* or of other known species of the genus, and are accordingly described as new. Types are deposited in the Australian Museum (AM), Sydney, N.S.W.

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Records of The Australian Museum, 1976, **30**, 113-117, Figure 1.