

A New Genus of Macrophthalmine Crab (Crustacea: Decapoda: Ocypodidae) from Eastern Australia

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ABSTRACT. A new genus and species of macrophthalmine is described from eastern Australia. *Enigmaplax* is separable from *Macrophthalmus* by its exceptionally wide front and the pointed not spooned chelae.

DAVIE, P.J.F., 1993. A new genus of macrophthalmine crab (Crustacea: Decapoda: Ocypodidae) from eastern Australia. *Records of the Australian Museum* 45(1): 5-9.

For some years a small graspid crab has been appearing in samples made from various coastal and estuarine localities along the eastern coast of Australia. This species was first reported on from the Brisbane River by Snelling (1959) and tentatively referred to *Cyrtograpsus*. Since then it has been found from numerous localities, and the discovery of a large collection of this species from *Zostera* beds around Pittwater, Sydney, in the Australian Museum, prompted the author to investigate its status. Its rightful place is in the family Ocypodidae where a new genus must be described to accept it.

Abbreviations are as follows: QM - Queensland Museum, AM - Australian Museum. All measurements are of maximum carapace breadth unless otherwise stated. Drawings were made using a camera lucida.

Enigmaplax n.gen.

Type species. *Enigmaplax littoralis* n.sp., by original

designation.

Gender. Feminine.

Diagnosis. Carapace flattened, quadrangular, lateral margins subparallel, dentate. Frontal width about 0.4 times fronto-orbital width. Postfrontal lobes sharply defined, straight. Orbits large, lower border complete, no infraorbital crest. Antennules transverse or slightly oblique; inter-antennula septum narrow. Antennae in the orbital hiatus. Central region of epistome distinctly convex. Maxillipeds do not close the buccal cavern; flagellum inserted medially on the anterior margin; merus smaller than ischium; no hairy ridge; exopod narrow. Chelipeds weak, cylindrical, cutting margins evenly serrated, but with basal molariform tooth differentiated in adult males, tips of fingers pointed. Legs slender; dactyls long, curved, unarmed; merus with subdistal tooth on anterior margin; no hairy ridged pouch between bases of first and second walking legs. Abdomen of male of 7 segments; evenly tapering; no medial constrictions.