GALATHEIDEA (CRUSTACEA, DECAPODA, ANOMURA) COLLECTED BY THE F.I.S. ENDEAVOUR

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Figures 1 and 2. Manuscript received, 20th March, 1972

ABSTRACT

Eleven species of Galatheidae and five of Porcellanidae are reported from the collections of the Endeavour off the Australian coast. Munida elegantissima De Man, M. japonica Stimpson, M. micros Alcock, and Galathea balssi Miyake and Baba are reported from Australia for the first time, and the latter two species are illustrated. Galathea whiteleggii Grant and McCulloch, an Australian species not collected by the Endeavour, is illustrated and compared with the closely related G. balssi. Earlier Australian records of the other 12 Endeavour species are cited, and range extensions are established for eight of them. Keys to the known Australian species of Munida and eastern Australian species of Galathea are presented.

INTRODUCTION

While operating off the coast of Australia from 1909 to 1914, the Fisheries Investigation ship Endeavour collected a number of anomuran crustaceans of the superfamily Galatheidea. Most of this material was deposited in the Australian Museum. During a visit of several days to the Museum in 1968 I examined a portion of it, and Dr J. C. Yaldwyn, then Curator of Crustacea, arranged for the rest to be sent to the Allan Hancock Foundation for study. Earlier I had received a small series of Endeavour specimens from the Western Australian Museum.

In a report on macruran Crustacea collected by the Endeavour, Schmitt (1926: 311) indicated that he planned to treat the Anomura as well. However, no paper on any of the anomuran groups was ever published; several families of decapods from the Endeavour collection were sent to Dr Schmitt at the Smithsonian Institution but remained unworked and were eventually returned to the Australian Museum (Dr R. B. Manning, personal communication). It is probable, therefore, that the material reported upon in this paper represents all the Galatheidea that were collected and preserved during the vessel's fisheries investigations.


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