

QUATERNARY CRUSTACEANS FROM NORTHERN AUSTRALIA IN
THE COLLECTIONS OF THE BUREAU OF MINERAL RESOURCES,
CANBERRA

by B. M. CAMPBELL and J. T. WOODS¹
Queensland Museum, Brisbane

Determinations:

Registered number	Number of Specimens	Locality	Determination
F2317 (=CFC 311)	1	Anson Bay, N.T., Wade collection	<i>Thalassina</i> sp. ind.
F15347	1	Anson Bay, N.T., Wade collection	<i>Thalassina</i> sp. ind.
F15438	1	Gunn Point, N.T. Collected A. Hart	<i>Thalassina</i> sp. ind.
F16890	1	Casuarina Road, 8 miles from Darwin. Collected by J. White	? <i>Thalassina</i> sp.
F22683	2	Port Darwin, N.T. Collected by C. D. Gabriel	<i>Thalassina</i> sp. ind.
F22684	1	Forrest River, W.A. Collected by F. and J. Thorne	<i>Thalassina squamifera</i> de Man
F22685	1	Forrest River, W.A. Collected by F. and J. Thorne	<i>Callinassa</i> sp. ind.
F22686	1	Below low-water mark, 4 miles upstream from mouth of South Alligator River, N.T. Collected by N. J. Mackay	<i>Thalassina squamifera</i> de Man
F22687	24	Gunn Point, N.T. Collected by S. K. Skwarko	<i>Thalassina</i> sp. ind.
F22688	2	Gunn Point, N.T. Collected by S. K. Skwarko	<i>Thalassina squamifera</i> de Man
F22689	1	On coast 5 miles west of W.A./N.T. border (loc. CG71/1). Collected by G. A. Thomas	<i>Thalassina</i> sp. ind.

The general practice has been to refer both living and fossil thalassinid material from northern Australia to *Thalassina anomala* (Herbst) as in Etheridge & McCulloch (1916) and Chapman (in Wade, 1924, pl. 1). However, examination of all available living material in Queensland collections (from localities both in Queensland and the Northern Territory) indicates that it is conspecific

¹ Now Chief Government Geologist, Geological Survey of Queensland.

with de Man's (1928) 'var. *squamifera*', and furthermore the differences from typical *anomala* warrant separation at the specific level.

Of characters useful in the discrimination of these two species, only one—the absence of an oblique tuberculate ridge on the chelae near the base of the fixed finger in *T. squamifera*—is available in fossils, and this only in relatively few individuals. On this basis all determinable thalassinids from this series are referred to *T. squamifera* de Man, and the same applies to the more extensive collection in the Queensland Museum.

The identification of the fossil thalassinids to a living species of similar geographic distribution (northern Australia, south to Gladstone, Queensland) and their occurrence in close proximity to present coastlines, suggest a general Quaternary age for the material.

A single unattached chela in the collection is referable to the genus *Callinassa* in the broad sense. This genus of burrowing forms, while rich in species, has received little study in Australia, and is not well represented in collections. The present specimen cannot be identified with any species in literature available to us.

REFERENCES

- ETHERIDGE, R., and McCULLOCH, A. R., 1916—Sub-fossil Crustaceans from the Coasts of Australia. *Rec. Aust. Mus.*, 11, 1-14.
- DE MAN, J. G., 1928—The Decapoda of the Siboga Expedition, Part VII. Mon. Siboga-Expeditie, 39a^b, 1-187, *Leiden, Brill*.
- WADE, A., 1924—Petroleum prospects, Kimberley District of Western Australia and Northern Territory. *By Authority, Melbourne*.