SUB-FOSSIL CRUSTACEANS FROM THE COASTS
OF AUSTRALIA.

By R. Etheridge, Junr., Curator,

AND

Allan R. McCulloch, Zoologist.

(Plates i-vii.; Fig. 1.)

I.—INTRODUCTION.

At various beaches on the south, south-east, north, and
north-west coasts of Australia, remains of Decapoda more or
less encased in clay-nodules, are every now and then brought
to light, but very few facts appear to have been gathered as to
their mode of occurrence when in situ. Again, similar animal
remains have been met with in excavating canals in delta
deposits, only in such instances they are less markedly nodular,
and have undergone a lesser degree of fossilisation. A third
occurrence is that of river, or perhaps estuarine, deposits
brought to light through dredging operations.

As an instance of the first mode of occurrence we cite Anson
Bay, North-west Australia; of the second the Coode Canal,
Yarra River Delta; and of the third dredging operations carried
on at the mouth of the Brisbane River, Moreton Bay. All of
these occurrences will be referred to later.

II.—HISTORY.

The first to describe one of these semi-fossil Decapoda from
Australia was Prof. Thomas Bell, of King’s College, London.
It appears he received from Mr. W. Sharp Macleay, a mac-
ruran which he referred to the genus Thalassina as T. emersii,
naming it after a “Mr. Emery” who apparently was the
collector, but unfortunately neither locality nor geological
information accompanied the specimen; it was simply said
to have been derived from “New Holland.” The first
description of the Thalassina appeared in the “Proceedings