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DE BELGIQUE

HORS SÉRIE

VERHANDELINGEN

VAN HET

KONINKLIJK NATUURHISTORISCH MUSEUM VAN BELGIE

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CRUSTACEA BRACHYURA

BY

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В

ISABELLA GORDON (London) (1)

INTRODUCTION

This small collection of Brachyura from the Dutch East Indies includes several rather uncommon forms and those described as new each exhibit some very distinctive characters. A number of the species are unfortunately each represented by only one or two specimens, often of very small size, so that it has not always been possible to identify them with certainty.

I have intentionally given a rather large number of text-figures in proportion to the text for three reasons. (1) I have wished as far as possible to fill in gaps by illustrating certain characters of specific importance that are not described or figured in sufficient detail in earlier works. (2) I consider that the male pleopods are of specific importance in many, though not in all genera. (3) I have found it necessary, as far as available time and material would permit, to revise a) the genus *Phymodius*, b) the classification of the subfamily *Eumedoninae* and c) the genus *Xenocarcinus*.

The classification followed is that given by Balss in Kükenthal and Krumbach's « Handbuch der Zoologie » (1927, vol. 3, pt. 1, pp. 1014-1025). I have, as a rule, omitted all reference to the names of the subfamilies partly because,

⁽¹⁾ From the Zoology Department, British Museum (Nat. Hist.).

in the Xanthidae especially, they require some revision. I have placed the genus Daira at the end of the list of genera in the section Hyperolissa because I am not quite sure of its true position. It is very near to Actaea but appears to have certain affinities with the Menippinae, especially as regards the male pleopods.

I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to Dr. V. van Straelen, Director of the Royal Museum of Natural History, Brussels, for sending me the collection for study. I also wish to acknowledge my indebtedness to the authorities of the « Muséum d'Histoire naturelle, Paris », of the U. S. National Museum and of the Museum of the University of Turin for sending specimens, including cotypes, for re-examination. It gives me great pleasure to thank Dr. H. Balss (¹) of Munich who has helped me to classify some of the Xanthidae and has so willingly placed his expert knowledge at my service.

⁽¹⁾ A number of specimens had been sent to Dr. Balss who identified most of them; those that were not later sent to me are indicated as e. g. « 7 ex » instead of σ , φ or immature specimens.