

Pl. 13a-b; *Matuta victor* (Fabricius, 1781) (MF); a = dorsal view, b = left chela.

preserved in the Zoologisk Museum in Copenhagen and, from these, a neotype was selected. The pattern of the Malabar specimens was described as "thorace undique punctato". We can only speculate today whether Fabricius' original descriptions (1781, 1793) really belong to the same species as he described in 1798 under the same name. Since the descriptions are obscure and material lost it was deemed preferable to follow Fabricius' own identification and preserve the name he had given them.

Leach (1817) described the single female of *M. peronii* as having "the exterior side of the hand has three spines, the middle of which is the longest", and in the accompanying figure (tab. 127, fig. 1) the carapace has the punctate pattern of *M. victor*.

Leach (1817) described *M. lesueurii* as having "tibiis...quartis acute unicarinatis", "pollice linea elevata polita transversim fortissime excavate" and "the external side of the hand has two spines, the anterior of which is the longest" leaving no doubt it is *M. victor*.

Rüppell's (1830) description of *M. lessueri* is in fact a composite of both *M. victor* and *A. lunaris*, though the accompanying drawing (tab. 1, fig. 3) is clearly identifiable as *M. victor* due to the prominently spinose lower palmar proximal angle.

Miers (1877: 244) separated *M. victrix* var. *crebrepunctata* from the typical form as "having the carapace more coarsely granulated, the spots very numerous, crowded". De Man (1881), on examining large series of specimens, observed the species "presents... many local and individual varieties as regards the coloration of the carapace and the more or less distinct tubercles", but chose to retain *M. victrix* var. *crebrepunctata*. Alcock (1896) synonymized var. *crebrepunctata* with *M. victor* and after checking Miers' material we agree.

Type locality.— Malabar coast, India (Fabricius, 1798: 369).

Distribution.— Red Sea and East Africa to Fiji and New Caledonia.

Mebeli gen. nov.

Type species: *Matuta michaelseni* Balss, 1921.

Diagnosis.— Carapace subcircular, smooth, slightly convex, regions undefined. Front, as wide as orbit, trilobate, median lobe projecting. Anterolateral margin cut into five teeth. Posterolateral margin uninterrupted, carinate. Lateral spine prominent, acuminate. Orbits lozenge-shaped, continuous with antennular fossa. Inferior orbital tooth, well defined. Antennae rudimentary. A short inhalant canal laterally interrupting suborbital margin. Pterygostomial region bearing a stridulating organ consisting of a single row of elongate tubercles. Outer maxillipeds elongate, extending nearly to anterior margin of carapace.

Chelipeds subequal. Merus short, trigonal, lower margin tuberculate, a fringe of long plumose setae on posterior margin, short setae on anterior margin. Carpus rounded, granulate, its upper margin carinate, with three triangular teeth at internal anterior margin. Length of palm nearly twice its height. External surface of palm smooth, upper margin bearing three acute teeth, inner surface of median tooth striate. External surface of dactylus smooth. Fingers crossing distally. Ambulatory legs natatory, with long setae on posterior margin of propodus and dactylus. Propodus of first ambulatory leg not dentate, penultimate carpus unicarinate.

Anterior margin of sternum ogival. Male abdomen five segmented, tapering, a granulate carina on third abdominal segment. Telson as long as wide at base, bluntly triangular. First male pleopod slender, tapered, distally setose, minutely granulate distally both on inner and outer surfaces, lacking tubular appendage on inner face.

Etymology.— After *Mebeli*, a fertility goddess of the Congo River people. Gender feminine.

Remarks.— The new genus, erected to contain the only Atlantic species, is distinguished from all its matutine relatives in having short, straight inhalant canal, external surface of palm unsculptured, pterygostomial stridulating organ consisting of a single row of tubercles, on palmar upper margin only median tooth interiorly striate, first ambulatory propodus not dentate and first male pleopod tapered and lacking tubular appendage on inner surface.

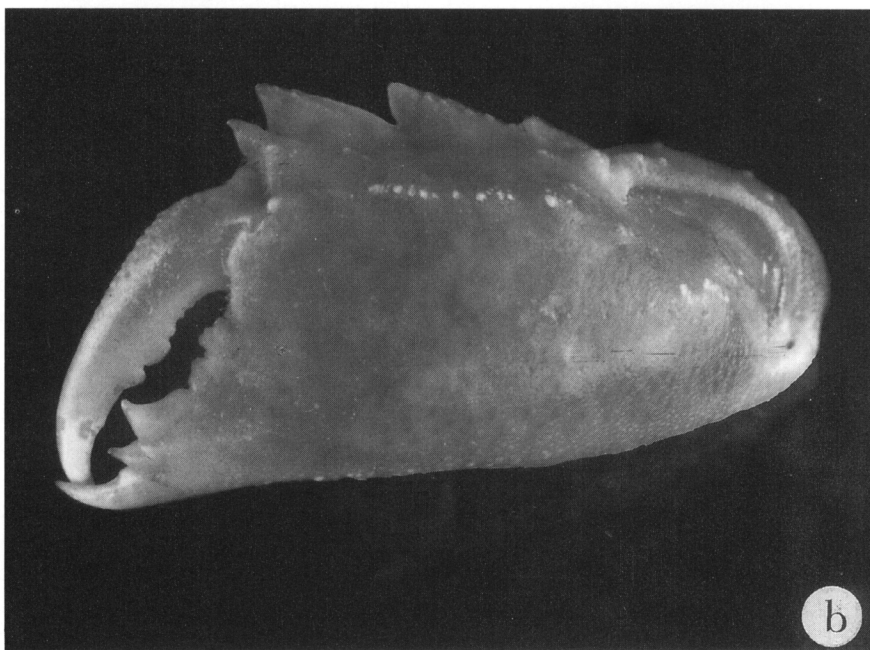
Mebeli michaelsoni (Balss, 1921) comb. nov.
(fig. 7c-d, pl. 14a-b)

Matuta michaelsoni Balss, 1921: 50, figs 5-6; Monod 1927: 606; Capart, 1951: 45, fig. 12; Monod, 1956: 98, figs 108-114; Rossignol, 1957: 77; Buchanan, 1958: 20; Longhurst, 1958: 87; Gauld, 1960: 68; Guinot & Ribeiro, 1962: 25; Rossignol, 1962: 114; Forest & Guinot, 1966: 51; Le Loeuff & Intes, 1968: table 1; Manning & Holthuis, 1981: 56.

Material.— **Senegal.** Pointe Sangomar, Lagoba, 12.viii.1952, 10-11 m, det. Th. Monod, 1952, ♂ 16 mm (MNHN B. 13527); Banc de Faguque, Joal, 5.iv.1953, coll. I. Marche-Marchad, 9 m, ♀ 19 mm (MNHN B. 13524). **Guinea.** 21.iii.1964, 20 m, "la Rafale", ♀ 18 mm, (MNHN B. 13439); 31.iii.1964, 20 m, "la Rafale", ♂ 20 mm, 2 ♀ ♀ 18 mm, 17 mm, (MNHN B. 13442); 3.iv.1964, 15 m, "la Rafale", ♀ 17 mm, (MNHN B. 13440); 4.iv.1964, 15 m, "la Rafale", juv. 12 mm, (MNHN B. 13441). **Gulf of Guinea.** 04°57'N 02°44'W, 5.x.1963, 20 m, "la Rafale", det. J. Forest, 1963, 4 juv. 8-13 mm, (MNHN B. 13533). **Sierra Leone.** Off Lumley, 11.xii.1954, 10 m, coll. A.R. Longhurst, det. Th. Monod, 1955, 6 ♂ ♂ 18.5-14 mm, 4 ♀ ♀ 16-13 mm (NHM 1957.5.26.197- 202). **Liberia.** St. Paul River, 16.i.1953, coll. J.C. Miller, ♂ 16 mm (USNM 97860). **Ivory Coast.** stn 18, 05°03'N 05°25'W, 21.v.1956, 20-25 m, "la Calypso", det. Forest & Guinot, ♀ 19 mm (MNHN B. 13523); Sassandra, 3.iv.1964, ♀ (RMNH D 21473). **Ghana.** Takoradi, Fisheries Bay, 14.viii.1961, ♂ (USNM 170320). **Togo.** Anecho, 3.xii.1947, coll. J. Cadenat, det. Th. Monod, 1952, 4 ♂ ♂ 20-21 mm, 2 ♀ ♀ 19 mm, 16.5 mm (MNHN B. 13526); Lome, 18.x.1963, 14 m, coll. A. Crosnier, 1 ♂ 21 mm, (MNHN B. 13534). **Benin.** Cotonou, 1910, coll. A. Gruvel, ♂ 18 mm (MNHN B. 13520). **Congo.** Pointe-Noire, -vii.1963, coll. A. Crosnier, 2 ♂ ♂ 8.7 mm, 14.2 mm, 7 ♀ ♀ 10-14 mm, (USNM 127183); 7.vii.1964, coll. A. Stauch, det. A. Crosnier, ♂ 17 mm, 5 ♀ ♀ 17-18 mm, juv. (MNHN B. 16714). **West Africa.** 1910, coll. A. Gruvel, det. Th. Monod, 1953, ♂ 19 mm, 3 ♀ ♀ 11-18 mm (MNHN B. 13525).

Description.— Carapace somewhat wider than long, moderately convex. Surface smooth. Front with two sinuous lobes laterally and a slightly emarginate rostrum medially. Supra orbital margin finely granular. Outer orbital angle produced. Internal orbital tooth granular, apparent in dorsal view. Eye stalk elongate, three and a half times as long as cornea, densely covered with long plumose setae on inferior surface.

Suborbital margin laterally interrupted by short, straight inhalant canal with setose margins. Subhepatic and pterygostomial regions minutely granulate, laterally set with plumose setae. On pterygostomial region a row of elongate tubercles, median tubercle longest, tubercles diminishing in size laterally. Third maxilliped finely granular.



Pl. 14a-b; *Mebeli michaelsoni* (Balss, 1921) USNM 97860; a = dorsal view, b = left chela.

Anterolateral margins with five granulose teeth, diminishing in size anteriorly, anteriormost barely more than tubercle. Lateral spine minutely granulate, 0.16 carapace width. Posterolateral margin oblique, somewhat sinuous, minutely granulate, carinate. Carina extending to base of lateral spine.

External surface of palm somewhat swollen, smooth but for indistinct row of tubercles terminating at base of dactylus. Upper margin of palm with three teeth, distalmost smallest. Interior surface of median tooth with 10-12 striae. Lower margin of palm granulate. Fingers slender, acuminate, crossing at tips. Lower finger with several acuminate teeth. Dactylus strongly curved, with two rows of granules basally on upper margin and two small triangular teeth on cutting edge.

Inferior margin of propodus of first ambulatory leg arcuate, propodi of second and third legs with small tooth inferiorly.

Plastron finely granular.

Colour (in alcohol).— Grey-white (Capart, 1951: 46).

Type locality.— Gambia (Balss, 1921: 50).

Distribution.— West Coast of Africa from Senegal to Angola, found in shallow water from shore to 30 m (Manning and Holthuis, 1981: 56).

Key to the species of *Matutinae*

1. External surface of chela unsculpted, pterygostomian stridulating organ consisting of a single row of tubercles, straight inhalant canal *Mebeli michaelsoni*
- External surface of chela sculpted, pterygostomian stridulating organ otherwise, curved inhalant canal 2
2. Antennular fossae closed off from orbits, lateral spine rudimentary, external surface of chela with mid-palmar stridulating ridge, palmar teeth interiorly granulose, pterygostomian region evenly granulose, second abdominal segment carinate. Genus *Izanami* gen. nov. 3
- Antennular fossae continuous with orbits, lateral spine well developed, external surface of chela lacking mid-palmar stridulating ridge, palmar teeth interiorly striate, pterygostomian region with several rows of elongate tubercles, third abdominal segment carinate 4
3. Carapace surface smooth, lateral spine triangular, penultimate abdominal segment laterally convex, first pereopodal propodus interiorly with acute tooth *Izanami curtispina*
- Carapace surface granulose, lateral spine tubercle-like, penultimate abdominal segment tapering evenly, first pereopodal propodus interiorly with rounded tooth *Izanami inermis*
4. Mid-palmar ridge oblique, dactylar ridge in male strongly milled throughout, carpus of penultimate pereopod unicarinate. Genus *Matuta* gen. nov. 5
- Mid-palmar ridge parallel with lower margin, dactylar ridge in male either distally milled or smooth, carpus of penultimate pereopod bicarinate. Genus *Ash-toret* gen. nov. 7
5. Lower proximal angle of palm prominently spinose, carapace minutely spotted dorsally *M. victor*
- Lower proximal angle of palm not spinose, carapace patterned otherwise 6

6. Front with lateral lobes arched, mid palmar ridge in males quadri-tuberculate, carapace with eight reddish circles arranged in three rows *M. circulifera*
 - Front with lateral lobes nearly straight, mid-palmar ridge in males nearly gapless, carapace with reticulating brown lines forming small rings anteriorly and larger loops posteriorly *M. planipes*
7. Lateral spine 0.4 times as long as width of carapace, carapace patterned with red rings encircling pale centers on a background of red dots
 *A. sanguianulata* spec. nov.
 - Lateral spine 0.3 times as long as width of carapace or less, carapace patterned otherwise 8
8. Lateral spine 0.15 times as long as width of carapace 9
 - Lateral spine 0.2-0.3 times as long as width of carapace 10
9. Carapace patterned with pale-centered red spots leaving pale crescents near base of red - patched lateral spine *A. granulosa*
 - Carapace finely patterned with brown-red spots, somewhat larger posteriorly
 *A. shengmuuae* spec. nov.
 - Lateral spine 0.2-0.3 carapace width, carapace patterned otherwise 9
10. Mid-posterolateral tubercle absent 11
 - Mid-posterolateral tubercle present 12
11. Palmar dactylus in male with distally milled ridge on outer surface, outer lower surface of palm granulate, carapace patterned with red dots anteriorly, larger dots forming broken rings posteriorly *A. maculata*
 - Palmar dactylus in male lacking distally milled ridge on outer surface, outer lower surface of palm with row of molariform tubercles, carapace patterned with red dots interspersed with white patches *A. miersii*
12. Mid palm a five lobed ridge, second lobe prominent, acuminate, fourth and fifth lobes wide and obtuse, carapace with reticulating brown lines forming rings anteriorly and larger loops posteriorly *A. picta*
 - Mid palm a five lobed ridge, second and fourth lobes large, acuminate, colour pattern otherwise 13
13. Rostrum emarginate, carapace covered with red dots, propodus and dactylus of ambulatory legs covered with large red patches *A. lunaris*
 - Rostrum obtuse, entire, carapace with red irregular loops and circles, larger posteriorly, on a background of red dots *A. obtusifrons*

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