Fig. 39. *Forsteria venezuelensis* (holotype of *V.* (*F.*) *venezuelensis edentata,* ZSM 1102/1), dorsal and ventral aspect. — Scale 20 mm.

Fig. 40. *Forsteria venezuelensis* (holotype of *V.* (*F.*) *venezuelensis edentata,* ZSM 1102/1), X-ray picture of endophragmal system.

fully agree with this action, as it retains *Valdivia* as a relatively homogeneous taxon with respect to the shape of male pleopod.

Species included: Monotypic for *venezuelensis* (Rathbun 1905) [= *edentata* Bott 1969, *ornatifrons* Pretzmann 1968].

Figs. 33–38. Male pleopods of type species of the genera of Valdiviini, ventro-mesial aspect except 35 [mesial aspect] [34 left limb; all others right limb]; scales 1 mm. — 33) *Forsteria venezuelensis* (USNM 234450); 34) *Melocarcinus meekei* (holotype, USNM 59345); 35) *Rotundovaldivia latidens* (USNM 231776); 36) *Sylviocarcinus devillei* (SMF 12705); 37) *Valdivia serrata serrata* (MZUSP 6310); 38) *Zilchiopsis collastinensis* (ZMH K-5255).

Valdivia. Male plp 1 with a distinctly bulged subdistal lobe on its latero-ventral side; spine field well developed, confined to the subdistal lobe; basal lobe inconspicuous. Suture displaced to the dorsal side in the distal third of the limb, returning to the ventral side at the extreme tip where it meets the terminally situated distal opening. Plp 2 longer than plp 1.

Distribution: Orinoco drainage system of Venezuela and Colombia.

Remarks: Bott (1969: 37) established *Forsteria* at subgeneric level, *Valdivia* (*Forsteria*). This subgenus was subsequently synonymised with *Valdivia* by Smalley & Rodriguez (1972) and Rodriguez (1981). Recently Rodriguez (1992) assigned *Forsteria* to generic level. We

Fig. 39. *Forsteria venezuelensis* (holotype of *V.* (*F.*) *venezuelensis edentata,* ZSM 1102/1), dorsal and ventral aspect. — Scale 20 mm.

Fig. 40. *Forsteria venezuelensis* (holotype of *V.* (*F.*) *venezuelensis edentata,* ZSM 1102/1), X-ray picture of endophragmal system.

fully agree with this action, as it retains *Valdivia* as a relatively homogeneous taxon with respect to the shape of male pleopod.

Species included: Monotypic for *venezuelensis* (Rathbun 1905) [= *edentata* Bott 1969, *ornatifrons* Pretzmann 1968].

Fig. 41. *Melocarcinus meekei* (holotype, USNM 59345), dorsal and ventral aspect. — Scale 20 mm.

Melocarcinus n. gen.

(Figs. 34, 41, 42)

Type species: *Trichodactylus* (*Valdivia*) *meekei* Pretzmann 1968.

Etymology: This genus is dedicated to Dr. Gustavo Schmidt de Melo, carcinologist at the Museu de Zoologia in São Paulo, in appreciation for his work on Brazilian crabs.

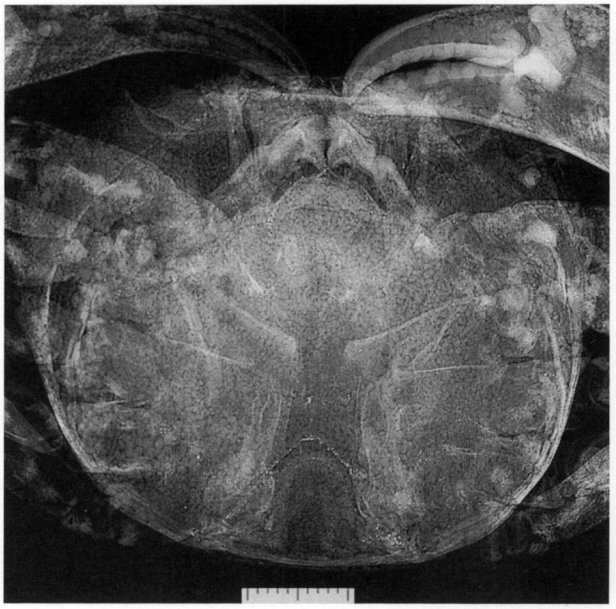

Fig. 42. *Melocarcinus meekei* (holotype, USNM 59345), X-ray picture of endophragmal system.

Diagnosis: Carapace with 4 anterolateral teeth. Abdominal segments III–V fused. Sternal plate and endophragmal system (judged by external view) as in *Sylviocarcinus*. Male plp 1 with a subdistal lobe, subterminal spine field well developed, arranged in one longitudinal area, which is split proximally on the dorsolateral face; stem with a prominent basal lobe on its ventral border; suture begins at ventro-mesial side, in the distal half it is more or less displaced towards the dorsal side, where it meets the similarly directed distal opening. Plp 2 longer than plp 1.

Distribution: Southern Panama.

Remarks: *Melocarcinus* is distinguished by the very peculiar shape of its male plp 1 and cannot be grouped with other species without creating heterogeneous assemblages. The suggestion of RODRIGUEZ (1992), that *M. meekei* might be closely related to *Forsteria venezuelensis*, thus, cannot be supported. The morphological peculiarity of the present genus matches with its far northern range. To our knowledge it is the only trichodactylid occurring in Panama.

Species included: Monotypic for *meekei* (PRETZMANN 1968).

Rotundovaldivia PRETZMANN 1968

(Figs. 35, 43, 44)

1968 *Valdivia* (*Rotundovaldivia*) PRETZMANN, Entom. Nachrbl., **15**(7/8): 73.

Type species: *Trichodactylus* (*Valdivia*) *bourgeti* RATHBUN 1905 [by original designation].

Diagnosis: Carapace with 5–6 anterolateral teeth. Abdominal segments III–V fused. Sternal plate and endophragmal system as in *Valdivia*. Male plp 1 with stem regularly tapering to tip, subdistal lobe absent; subterminal spine field poorly developed, situated on the latero-ventral face; basal lobe rounded, knob-shaped; suture displaced to the dorsal side in the distal third of the appendage, returning to ventral side at the extreme tip where it meets the terminally situated distal opening. Plp 2 longer than plp 1.

Distribution: Restricted to the western Amazon basin, to date known from Peru and Brazil.

Remarks: *Rotundovaldivia* was originally given subgenus status by PRETZMANN (1968: 73) and he designated *Trichodactylus* (*Valdivia*) *bourgeti* as the type species of the subgenus. Later PRETZMANN (1983b: 326) raised this subgenus to generic level and named, as the type species of the genus, *Trichodactylus* (*Valdivia*) *latidens* A. MILNE-EDWARDS 1869. This action is not permitted under the rules of the International Code and the species of RATHBUN remains the type species of *Rotundovaldivia* as originally designated by PRETZMANN. In spite of this formally incorrect statement, the identity of the genus remained the same, as we found out by reexamining the type material that *T.* (*V.*) *bourgeti* was indeed a synonym of *R. latidens*. RODRIGUEZ (1992) suggested, that the present genus may be included in *Valdivia*, because of the morphologically intermediate male plp 1 of *R. harttii gila* PRETZMANN. This statement has been made on the basis of PRETZMANN's figures of *R. latidens*, which do not show much detail. However, the proportions of the basal lobe of the male plp 1 differ so clearly from that of all *Valdivia* species proper, that we propose keeping *R. latidens* in a separate genus. By this action *Valdivia* remains homogeneous.

Species included: Monotypic for *latidens* (A. MILNE-EDWARDS 1869) [= *bourgeti* (RATHBUN 1905), *bourgueti* (sic!) *falcipenis* (PRETZMANN 1968)].

Sylviocarcinus H. MILNE-EDWARDS 1853

(Figs. 36, 45, 46)

1853 *Sylviocarcinus* H.MILNE-EDWARDS, Ann. Sci. nat., (3)**20**: 215.

1968 *Holthuisia* PRETZMANN, Entom. Nachr.-Bl. Wien, **15**(7/8): 74. [Type species by original designation: *Dilocarcinus pictus* H. MILNE-EDWARDS 1853].

Type species: *Sylviocarcinus devillei* H. MILNE-EDWARDS 1853 [by monotypy].

Diagnosis: Carapace with four or less (exceptionally up to five) anterolateral teeth, fading away in large specimens. Abdominal segments III–V or III–VI fused. Thoracic sternum relatively long and narrow. Endophragmal system with endosternites IV/V and VI/VII reaching the midline, latter very low towards the center of the sternum; median plate only evident and crest-shaped in somites VII–VIII. Male plp 1 with or without a subdistal lobe, subterminal spine fields well developed, mostly arranged in three parallel longitudinal areas, which, however, can be more or less fused; suture begins on the ventro-mesial side, in the distal half it is more or less displaced towards the dorsal side and returns at the tip again to the ventro-mesial side where it meets the similarly directed distal opening.

Distribution: All larger river drainage systems of South America (Amazon, Magdalena, Maracaibo, Paraguay, Paraná), recorded from Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay, and Argentina.

Remarks: There has been some discussion in the past as to the name of the genus including *S. devillei* and *S. pictus*. BOTT (1969) used *Sylviocarcinus* and treated *Holthuisia* PRETZMANN 1968 as a synonym. PRETZMANN & MAYTA (1980:5) and PRETZMANN (1983b: 321) in contrary used *Holthuisia* stating, that *S. devillei*, the type species of *Sylviocarcinus*, is a female and no males were known (we agree with this formal statement after reexamination of the series SMF 4334 in which the males belong to other species. — See MAGALHÃES & TÜRKAY 1996a for more details). They prefer therefore, to leave *S. devillei* in *Valdivia* where RATHBUN (1906) placed it. After our reexamination of the type specimen of this species, and examination of male specimens recently collected from the lower Amazon basin, we can say that *S. devillei* is not a *Valdivia* and, thus, *Sylviocarcinus* is a valid genus. Consequently we continue to use this name and treat *Holthuisia* as a younger subjective synonym, because we consider *S. pictus* congeneric with *S. devillei*. The only reason for using *Holthuisia* in the future could be the generic separation of *S. pictus* from *S. devillei* and allies, which we do not think to be adequate. In this case forms like *S. maldona-*