XII.—*Notes on the Australian Maioid Brachyura.*

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I HAVE been recently engaged in the study of the Brachyura Oxyrhyncha of the Australian coast, and, as a great deal that is new has been met with, and also a good many facts interesting from the point of view of geographical distribution, a summary of the results may be of sufficient interest to be given here.

Taking into account the comparatively unexplored condition of many parts of the coast of Australia (particularly the western and north-western coasts and the south coast of Tasmania), the total number of known species belonging to this group of Brachyura (nearly sixty in all) is unexpectedly large. Australia, however, cannot, as regards its marine zoology, be regarded as a single region. The affinities borne by the northern coast of the continent to the southern, as regards their prevailing types of marine life, are much less close than those which either of these provinces bears to regions much more remote, or at least separated from it by deep sea.

Taking those two faunas, the northern and the southern, separately, we find that there is in each a considerable commingling of the peculiarities exhibited by various other widely separated zoological provinces. Thus the southern fauna unites to its own peculiar forms some of the characteristics of New Zealand, of Japan, and, indirectly, of Europe; while the northern is very nearly related to that of the Philippines, Borneo, New Caledonia, and other islands of Melanesia, and, more remotely, to that of the Indian Ocean and Red Sea.

It is noteworthy that by far the greater number of the species characteristic of the northern region belong to the families Periceridæ and Parthenopidæ, while the southern species belong almost exclusively to the Inachidæ and Maiidæ.

As regards the species of Inachidæ, one of the most striking facts is the occurrence of three species of *Stenorhynchus* (*S. curvirostris*, A. Milne-Edwards, *S. brevirostris* and *S. fissifrons*, mihi), a genus of very wide distribution, though till quite recently regarded as peculiar to the northern hemisphere: one of these (*S. fissifrons*) occurs also in New Zealand; *S. curvirostris* has only been found in Bass's Straits; while the third species (*S. brevirostris*) ranges from Port Jackson at least as far north as Port Denison. A peculiar form belonging to this family is *Gonatorhynchus tumidus*, mihi, found in Port Jackson. It has the carapace subtriangular, rounded behind, the surface finely granulated, covered with hooked hairs, with a few minute spines on the lateral margins, and

various irregular smooth elevations on the dorsal surface; the rostrum is well developed and slightly deflexed, with triangular-fronted cornua; the eyes are non-retractile; and the orbit is protected above and behind by two converging spines, which are separated from one another and from the upper orbital margin by wide fissures; the epistome is transverse; the external maxillipédes have the third joint expanded at its external angle; the anterior limbs (in the male) resemble those of *Paramithrax*; and the ambulatory limbs are of moderate length, covered with slender hairs above, and have the terminal joint hooked at the apex.

The genus *Achæus* is represented by at least one species (*A. breviceps*, mihi), found in Port Jackson; and a species of *Oncinopus* (*O. angulatus*, mihi) occurs both in Port Jackson and in the far north. The genus *Halimus* is highly characteristic of Australia in its temperate portion, at least four species occurring on the coast of New South Wales and Tasmania, viz. *H. tumidus*, Dana, *H. spinosus*, Hess (*H. truncatipes*, Miers?), *H. lævis*, mihi, and *H.* (*Microhalimus*) *deflexifrons*, mihi. The last is distinguished from the ordinary *Halimi* by its small size and the absence of conspicuous spines on the lateral borders of the carapace. Other species of Inachidæ observed in Australia are *Camposcia retusa*, Latr., *Xenocarcinus tuberculatus*, White, *X. depressus*, Miers, *Huenia proteus*, De Haan, *H. bifurcata*, Streets, and *Menœthius monoceros*, Latr.

Among the Maiidæ one of the most noteworthy forms is a species from Torres Straits, which I have named *Chlorinoides tenuirostris*, distinguished from the genus (*Pseudochlorinus*?) represented by *Chlorinus aculeatus*, Milne-Edwards, *C. longispina*, De Haan, and *C. acanthonotus*, Adams and White, by the presence of a spine on the basal joint of the antennæ and the greater relative length and slenderness of the ambulatory limbs.

Egeria Herbstii, Milne-Edwards, and *E. arachnoides*, Rumph., seem to replace, in Torres Straits and on the eastern coast of Queensland, the *Stenorhynchi* and *Achæi* of the temperate zone, and are associated with *Chlorolibinia gracilipes*, Miers, a species originally obtained by H.M.S. 'Herald' from the New-Guinea coast.

The genus *Paramithrax* (including *Leptomithrax*) is represented by five species, all seemingly confined to the temperate zone; these are *P. barbicornis*, Latr., *P. sternocostulatus*, Milne-Edwards, *P. Peronii*, Milne-Edwards, *Leptomithrax australiensis*, Miers, and *L. spinulosus*, mihi.

Among the other species of this family inhabiting the Aus-

tralian coast may be mentioned *Micippoides longimanus*, mihi, *Schizophrys aspera*, White, *Cyclomaia margaritata*, Stimpson, *Hyastenus oryx*, A. Milne-Edwards, *Micippa parvirostris*, Miers, *M. spatulifrons*, A. Milne-Edwards, *M. superciliosa* and *M. inermis*, mihi, and *Paramicippa spinosa*, Stimpson.

Among the Periceridæ the only genus represented is *Tiarinia*, of which there occur three species, all confined to the tropics.

The family Parthenopidæ, on the other hand, is very abundant in genera and species, by far the greater number of which are confined (so far, at least, as at present known) to tropical seas. Of the genus *Lambrus* (including *Parthenope*), there are no fewer than nine species; these are:—*L. longimanus*, Milne-Edwards; *L. turriger*, *L. hoplonotus*, *L. harpax*, and *L. calappoides*, Adams and White; *L. nodosus*, Lucas; *L. affinis*, A. Milne-Edwards; *L. spinifer* and *L. Sandrockii*, mihi. There are two species of *Cryptopodia* (*C. fornicata*, Fabr., and *C. spatulifrons*, Miers), one of *Zebrida* (*Z. longispina*, mihi), two of *Gonatonotus* (*G. pentagonus*, Adams and White, and *G. crassimanus*, mihi), and one of *Harrovia* (*H. tuberculata*, mihi).

Sydney, Dec. 3, 1879.

XIII.—*Description of a new Genus and Species of Heteromerous Coleoptera.* By Charles O. Waterhouse.

On two or three occasions I have had brought to me for determination a small heteromerous beetle which appears to be always associated with grain of some kind, especially rice. The species appears to be not uncommon; but I have been unable to find any description of it. Specimens of the species have been in the British-Museum collection for many years, but without any name; and I have been unwilling to describe it, from the fact of its being widely distributed and therefore likely to have been in the hands of continental authors. Having again made an unsuccessful attempt to determine it, and being informed by Mr. F. Bates that he has it in his collection noted as a new genus, I now venture to name it as follows:—

Ulomidæ.

Latheticus, n. gen.

General form of *Tribolium*. Mentum transverse, the anterior angles rounded, the front margin gently emarginate in the middle, the ligula not much projecting, transverse, emar-