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## INVERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY Crustacea

### DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF CRAB FROM MACCLESFIELD BANK (PARTHENOPIDAE, EUMEDONINAE)

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Included in an assorted lot of unnamed Decapoda in the British Museum (Nat. Hist.) Collection, is a Parthenopid crab that proves to belong to an undescribed species of the genus *Harrovia*. In 1943 I prepared the following description and figures; but, having had no occasion to return to a study of the Parthenopidae, I think it advisable to publish the description separately now.

#### *Harrovia egeriae*, sp. n.

*Material*.—Holotype, an ovigerous ♀ measuring 11×16.6 mm. from Macclesfield Bank, 45 fms., H.M.S. Egeria, coll. Bassett Smith. Reg. no. 93.11.3.79.

*Description*.—The carapace is hexagonal but, owing to the presence of an unusually massive lateral spinose projection, is much wider than is characteristic of the genus *Harrovia*. The areolation of the carapace and the distribution of the small granules, represented in fig. 1 *a*, are distinctly seen when the specimen has been allowed to dry. The widest part, comprising the lateral projections and the gastric region with its prominent proto- and flatter mesogastric lobes, is also the highest. From this median area the carapace slopes away anteriorly, laterally and posteriorly. The deflexed front is distinctly concave between the raised convex lateral lobes. The anterolateral border is subdivided into four lobes, the third being much larger than the fourth and forming the greater part of the stout lateral spine.

In ventral aspect the median frontal lobes are not separated from the small lateral ones except anteriorly, the depression that I referred to as the 'antennal groove' being absent (fig. 1 *b*)\*. The eye-stalk is comparatively slender.

The chelipeds are short, massive and closely studded with bead-like granules. The right, the larger of the two, is approximately equal to the width of the carapace. The merus is short and stout and is not visible beyond the anterolateral margin; there is a prominent tooth-like lobule near the distal end of the upper edge. A similar lobe is present on the carpus (fig. 1 *a*). The chela is represented in fig. 1 *c*; the granules cover the entire outer, most of the inner, surface and spread on to the short, stout fingers.

\* Cf. Gordon, 1934, *Mém. Mus. Royal Hist. Nat. Belgique*, Hors Série III, fasc. 15, p. 64, fig. 33 *c* and *d*.

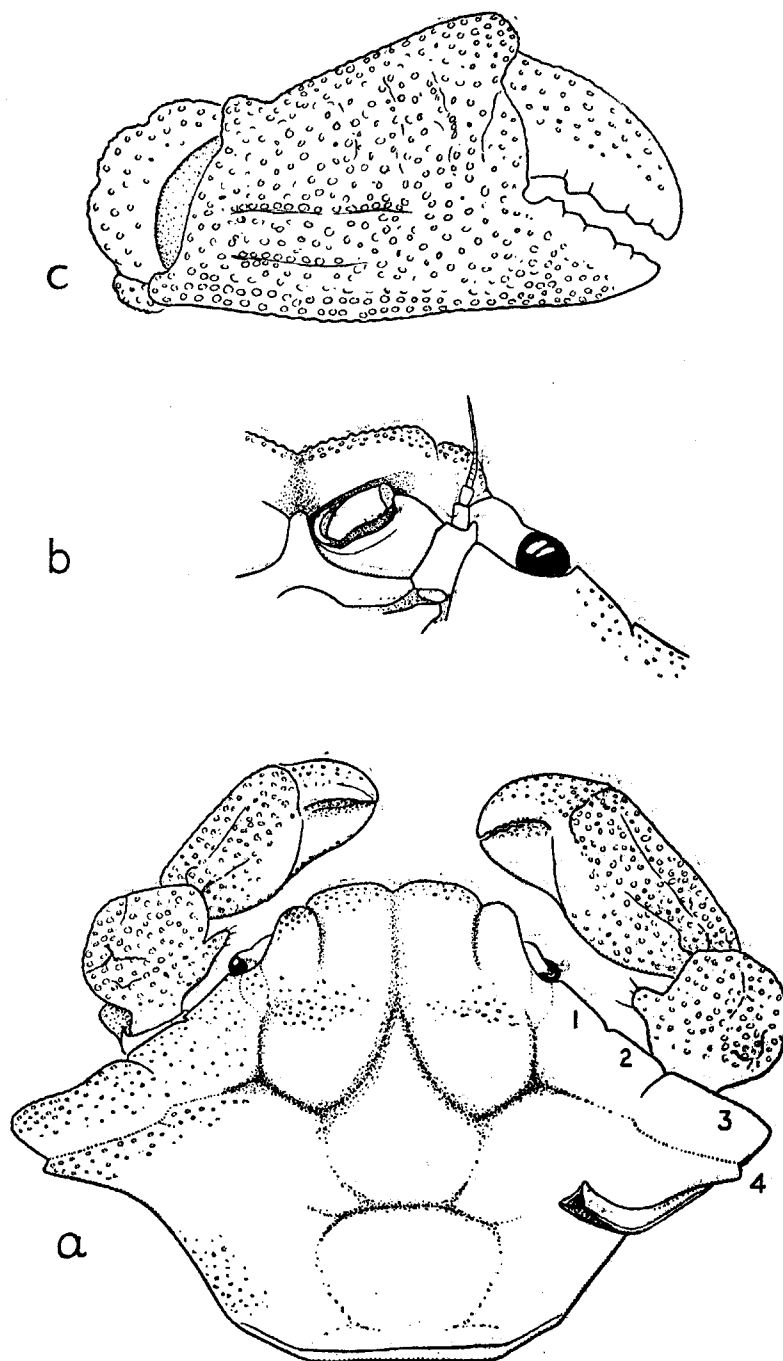


FIG. 1.—*Harrovia egeriae*, sp. n. Holotype.  
 a. Carapace and chelipeds, in dorsal aspect,  $\times$  circa 8.  
 b. Frontal region of carapace, in ventral aspect, further enlarged.  
 c. Right chela, further enlarged.

The walking legs are much more slender than the chelipeds and the first, which is appreciably longer than the fourth, extends to the base of the immobile finger of the left cheliped.

The difference between the dactylus of the first and subsequent pairs is not so pronounced as in *H. purpurea* Gordon (1934, p. 66, fig. 34 *b, c.*)

The abdomen is much narrower than in some females belonging to the Eumedoninae, the maximum width being equal to the sum of the first five segments.

*Remarks.*—The shape of the carapace distinguishes this from all the known species of the genus *Harrovia*. Usually the width of the carapace does not greatly exceed the length. According to Sakai, however, the width is at least half as much again as the length\* in both *H. elegans* de Man and *H. trilobata* Sakai (1938, 'Studies on the Crabs of Japan—III. *Brachygnatha Oxyrhyncha*, Tokyo, p. 350, pl. 33, fig. 1 and p. 352, text-fig. 55.) In most, if not in all, species of *Harrovia* the anterolateral margin is subdivided into four lobes, the last one or two of which may be spinose. It is easy to imagine that two spines, such as occur in *H. elegans*, might fuse to form one large spinose projection as in *H. egeriae*.

In most species of *Harrovia* and *Ceratocarcinus* the chelipeds are relatively long, the merus projecting well beyond the margin of the carapace. Short chelipeds, however, occur in *H. truncata* Rathbun (1906, Bull. U.S. Fish Comm. for 1903, pt. III, p. 886, p. xiv, fig. 8), in *Ceratocarcinus spinosus* Miers (1879, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (5), iv, p. 27, pl. v, fig. II) and is usual in the genus *Eumedonus*.

As regards the shape of the front or rostrum, this species is most closely allied to *H. purpurea* Gordon (1934, p. 68, fig. 35). In that species, however, the chelipeds are longer and more slender; the fourth lobe of the anterolateral margin alone forms the lateral spine; the eyes are larger; there is also a very distinctive colour pattern beneath the short tomentum that covers the entire dorsal surface of the carapace. The holotype of *H. egeriae* has been in spirit for nearly 50 years and no trace of any colour pattern remains. If there is any tomentum on the carapace it has been entirely rubbed off.

The abdomen, as mentioned above, is narrow; in fact it is narrower than that of the ♀ syntype of *H. albolineata* Ad. and Wh., although the latter is a much smaller specimen (carapace 7.4 × 9.5 mm.). In a ♀ syntype of *Proechinoecus sculptus* Ward the width of the abdomen actually exceeds the length of the carapace; in *H. egeriae* it is less than half the carapace length.

\* Excluding the outer spinose frontal lobe, which is in advance of the median lobe.

