

Off Dublin Bay (Ball); Isle of Wight (Forbes and Hanley); Firth of Clyde (Scottish Marine Station); Kattegat (Copenhagen Museum); "ad oras Bohusiæ" (Lovén).

"*Rossia Owenii* BALL? Ann. nat. hist. IX, 349; pinnis pone medium sitis, brachiis basi discretis, acetabulorum inæqualium serie tri-quadruplici armatis, tentaculis validis, membrana apicali ad basin tori incipiente.—Abdomen ventricosum, satis obtusum, latit. ad longit. = 28:38. Pinnæ ad basin longitudine abdominis dimidium prope æquantes, late ellipticæ, antice per breve spatium limbi liberæ. Caput magnum. Brachia valida, 1, 4, 2, 3, ad basin brevissime colligata, exceptis 3tiis, quæ ad $\frac{1}{6}$ longit. 4tis adnexa, his invicem profunde discretis. Acetabula, quorum in brachii singuli serie laterali circ. 30, inde ab ima basi numeranda, inferius per paria disposita subalterna, deinde per series obliquas tri- et quadruplices, brevissime pedunculata (nec longe, cfr. l. c.), in brach 1:is subæqualia, mediocria, in 4:is, 2:is, et præsertim 3:iis inæqualia, lateralibus media duplo superantibus. Brachia 1 latere externo plica cutis marginali. Tentacula valida, compressa, corpus longitudine æquantia, apice dilatata, revoluta, et intus toro prædita lanceolato, membrana utrinque defenso, ex acetabulis confertis, versus apicem sensim diminutis, superioribus baseos longe maximis, basalia brachii 1:mi vix credentibus; membrana marginalis ad basin tori incipiens. Palpebra crassa, inferior oculum omnino obtegens. Long. tot. = 85 mm.; ad basin brach. 1 = 58 mm.; latit. max. = 28 mm.; long. gladii 23 mm.—Ad oras Bohusiæ hieme semel capta."—(Lovén, *loc. cit.*).

There can be little doubt that as Steenstrup has suggested,¹ the two forms described by Ball are of different sexes and not of different species, although it is not true as stated by Jeffreys² that he "considers *R. Owenii* of Ball the male, and his *R. Jacobii* the female of *R. macrosoma*." The distinguishing characters indicated by Ball are exactly those which mark out the sexes; the males have enlarged suckers in the two outer series on the lateral arms, while the females have smaller equal suckers, and the body is more elongated, or, what is the same thing, the arms are "proportionably shorter." The description of the membrane round the mouth given in connection with *Rossia jacobii* is not of the nature of a specific character, being found in many, if not most, genera of Decapoda.

This species is very closely related to several others, many of the distinctive characters being only of a relative nature, as indeed is the case throughout the genus. It differs from *Rossia palpebrosa*, Owen, in the greater equality of the arms and the more posterior position of the fins; it resembles *Rossia hyatti*, Verrill, very closely in many respects (form of body, proportionate length of arms and umbrella, and number of rows of suckers), but the fin is different in shape, wider, and less incised anteriorly, and there are no papillæ on the dorsal surface.

This species is certainly very closely allied to *Rossia macrosoma*, and should

¹ Hectocotyl., p. 199.

² Brit. Conch., vol. v. p. 134.