

it, in several ways, however, brings into greater prominence true natural affinities existing between the different groups; as, *e.g.*, in the approximation of the Oxyrhyncha to the Oxystomata, and perhaps in the definite separation of the Leucosiidæ from the latter group, nor can it be denied that the Dromiidæ, at least, are so nearly related to the Brachyura that they may with almost equal justice be arranged with them or with the Anomura. Perhaps, therefore, this classification will upon further study be adopted by systematists in preference to the older one, which is followed in the present Report.

The classification proposed in 1861 by Dr. Strahl,¹ who, basing his system upon the modifications of the structure and the position of the exterior antennæ and especially of the basal joint, proposed four entirely new subdivisions of the Brachyura designated (1) Orbata, (2) Liberata, (3) Incuneata, and (4) Perfusa, needs no extended remark. The artificiality of his arrangement, and the inconvenience resulting from the dismemberment of the long-established groups, was exposed shortly after by the late Dr. W. Stimpson,² the well-known American carcinologist, and it is to be regretted that the minor subdivisions of the Brachyura indicated by this author in his Preliminary Synopsis of the Crustacea collected by the U.S. Exploring Expedition to the North Pacific³ were never fully recharacterised, and the classification never worked out in detail. This latter remark applies also to his memoir on the Crustacea dredged in the Florida Straits,⁴ where such definitions as are given are brief and incomplete.

Several of the families and subfamilies indicated, but not always properly defined, by Stimpson, are adopted in the present Report.

Dr. Camil Heller in 1863⁵ limited the Brachyura in the sense indicated by M. H. Milne Edwards and Dana, and retains the four great subdivisions, Oxyrhyncha, Cyclometopa, Catometopa, and Oxystomata. Dana's family Eriphiidæ is not sustained; and the Corystoid genera *Atelecyclus*, *Thia*, and *Corystes* are classed with the Oxystomata as in H. Milne Edwards' system.

Professor C. Claus in his Zoologic⁶ divides the Brachyura into five tribes:— (1) Notopoda (including not only the Dorippidæ, but also the groups Porcellanidæ, Lithodidæ, and Dromiidæ, which have been generally included in the Anomura); (2) the Oxystomata, including besides the groups referred to this tribe by Dana, the Anomurous family Raninidæ; (3) the Oxyrhyncha (Majacea); (4) the Cyclometopa (Arcuata) or Cancroidea; and (5) the Catometopa. The three last groups are limited as by Professor Dana; the Corystidæ and the Thelphusidæ are included in the Cyclometopa.

¹ *Monatsber. d. k. preuss. Akad. d. Wiss. Berlin*, pp. 713, 1004, 1862.

² *Amer. Journ. Sci. and Arts*, vol. xxxv. p. 139, 1863; *Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist.*, ser. 3, vol. xi. p. 233, 1863.

³ *Prodromus descriptionis Animalium evertibratorum, &c., Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philad.*, 1857, p. 216; 1858, pp. 31, 93, 159.

⁴ *Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoöl.*, vol. ii. p. 109, 1870.

⁵ *Die Crustaceen des südlichen Europa*, Wien, 1863, 8vo.

⁶ *Grundzüge der Zoologie*, 4ter Auflage, Bd. i. p. 632, 1880.