

Length—female, 25 mm. (1 in.); male, 13 mm. (0.5 in.).

Length, entire (female),	25	mm.
„ of carapace,	11	„
„ of pleon,	14	„
„ of large hand,	13	„
„ of dactylos of large hand,	4	„
„ of small hand,	9	„
„ of dactylos of small hand,	5	„
„ of telson,	3.5	„

Habitat.—Off St. Vincent, Cape Verde Islands. The station is not recorded, but it was probably Station 93c, at a depth of 52 fathoms, on coralline mud.

Heller took his specimen in the Red Sea, where probably also that was obtained from which Audouin's original figure was taken.

Off Albany Island, Cape York, a specimen was taken that only differs from the female obtained at the Cape Verde Islands by having the smaller hand upon the left side; the larger on the right side being broken off. Beyond this I see nothing either in form or arrangement of parts that distinguishes it from the Atlantic and Red Sea forms.

Alpheus avarus, Fabricius,¹ appears to have no strongly marked feature separating it from *Alpheus edwardsii*, and I think we shall not be far wrong in saying that *Alpheus edwardsii*, Audouin, *Alpheus avarus*, Fabricius, *Alpheus strenuus*, Dana, *Alpheus parvirostris*, Dana, and *Alpheus pacificus*, Dana, are merely varieties of a cosmopolitan species which have arisen by local selection. Dana considers *Alpheus leviusculus* to be only a variety of *Alpheus edwardsii*.

Mr. Edward J. Miers, F.L.S., late of the British Museum, considers the two specimens which the late Mr. Adam White named *Alpheus doris* and *Alpheus neptunus* to be respectively *Alpheus edwardsii* and *Alpheus strenuus*, but they correspond very closely with *Alpheus avarus* of this Report and *Alpheus strenuus* and *Alpheus parvirostris* of Dana.

It moreover appears that in a genus so generally distributed as *Alpheus*, a specific character that is largely dependent upon the form of one abnormally developed appendage must be very untrustworthy as a natural distinction of species, inasmuch as the tendency to vary in that organ must be great.

¹ See de Haan, in Siebold's Fauna Japonica, p. 179, pl. xlv. fig. 3.