

INTRODUCTION.

NOMENCLATURE.

Before entering upon the description of the structure of the many forms which I have to elucidate, it is necessary that the system of nomenclature which I have adopted should be clearly set forth and understood. It is the same as that which was used by Professor Westwood and myself in our History of the British Sessile-Eyed Crustacea, and which has since been extensively employed by naturalists.

I have invariably adopted the terms proposed by others when they appeared to possess clear homological value, and have only abbreviated most of those of Professor Milne-Edwards in order to avoid redundancy,—for example, in the terminology applied to the various joints of the oral and ambulatory appendages. Some of the terms in common use I have observed to be a frequent cause of confusion, even in printed descriptions, from their similarity in sound. I allude to the terms “endopodite,” “exopodite,” “apopodite” and “epipodite,”—the last three being applied to branches of the first, a fact which is not at all brought out by their respective names.

The nomenclature here employed appears to be of universal application to the whole of the Crustacea, and avoids the necessity for roundabout explanation, which so frequently destroys clearness of description.

In the definition and diagnosis of species I have confined myself to the systematic terms as given in the accompanying table, but when writing where less exactitude was necessary, I have generally used the more popular expressions.

The nomenclature of the parts is shown in the accompanying woodcut (Fig. I.) of an ideal Macrurous Crustacean, in which the appendages are represented of several characteristic forms.