

1878. CATTÀ, J. D.

Sur un Amphipode nouveau, le *Gammarus Rhipidiophorus*. Actes de la Société Helvétique des Sciences naturelles réunie à Bex les 20, 21 et 22 août 1877. 60^e session. Compte-rendu 1876/1877. Lausanne, 1878. pp. 257-263.

The Amphipod in question has been only found in a well at La Ciotat (Bouches-du-Rhône, France), a hundred yards or so from the Mediterranean. The water of the well becomes brackish in summer. Professor Cattà observes that in the carpus and propodus of the first peræopod his new species has, with exaggerated development, a character common also to *Gammarus pulex* and *Gammarus locusta*, in that these joints are "garnis d'immenses poils plumeux disposés par rangées transversales et entremêlés de piquants." From the sweeping movement of these setæ he formulates the name "*Rhipidiophorus* (ῥιπίδιον, *balai de plumes*)." The first peræopod in this species, he says, is much longer than the second; the first uropods are much shorter than the second; the third are enormous, whether compared with those that precede or with the size of the animal, and have one branch rudimentary; the other branch "garnie de nombreuses rangées de grandes soies et de piquants, est composée de deux articles dont le dernier est assez réduit."

An argument follows to show that the genus *Niphargus* ought to be again merged in *Gammarus*. It is urged that in *Gammarus pulex*, and in *Gammarus neglectus*, Sars, one ramus of the third uropod is biarticulate, as in *Niphargus*; that Humbert's "*Niphargus puteanus*, var. *Forelii*" has "des poils et des poinçons sur le bord postérieur des derniers Somites," as in *Gammarus*; that the presence or absence of eyes is not of great importance; and that the telson is practically alike in the species assigned to both genera. As to the dorsal hairs and prickles, he says, "*G. Rhipidiophorus* qui est *Niphargus* par les antennes, le cinquième Siagonopode et le Pléon, porte aussi ces poils et ces piquants." It may, on the other hand, be argued that in *Niphargus aquilex* the biarticulate ramus of the third uropods is strikingly distinguished from that in any species of *Gammarus* by the length which the second articulation attains, as well as by its cylindrical shape. The discovery of transition-forms between two genera will always cause some difficulty, but as such forms have probably existed in innumerable cases where they have not been discovered, it is a question how far the discovery of them should be allowed to interfere with well-established distinctions either of genera or species. When *Niphargus aquilex* and *Gammarus pulex* are side by side, it is rather the difference of the *facies* than the likeness which attracts attention.

1878. CHATIN, JOANNES.

Recherches pour servir à l'histoire du batonnet optique chez les crustacés et les vers. (Suite 1). Annales des Sciences naturelles. Sixième série. Zoologie. Tome VII. Paris, 1878.

Accounts are given of the eye in *Lysianassa spinicornis*, Costa, fig. 24; *Isæa nicea*, Thor., fig. 25, 26; *Caprella acanthifera*, Leach, figs. 28, 29; *Epimeria*, nov. sp., Cattà, figs. 30-34. This new species lives parasitic upon *Suberites domuncula*, Nardo. The pigment-sheath is rouge vif, while other species of *Epimeria* have it brown, and others again almost black. The genus, he thinks, requires a complete revision.