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For the original definition of the genus, see Note on Leach, 1814 (p. 86).

It is thus defined by Mayer, though not verbally as follows, yet to this effect:—  
 "The *Peræon* with seven pairs of completely developed legs.

"The *Mandibles* with a palp.

"*Branchial Vesicles* on the second, third, and fourth segments of the peræon.

"*Pleon* one-jointed, having in both sexes two pairs of two-jointed *Uropods* (Fussstummel).

"*Lower Antennæ* without motor-setæ (Ruderhaare), the flagellum in the adult animal consisting of more than two joints."