

A discussion of the systematic position of the genus *Serolis* within the order Isopoda will be best postponed until after a more detailed study of the remaining part of the collection.

With regard to the alleged affinity of *Serolis* (and of the Isopoda generally) for the extinct Trilobites, insisted upon by Milne-Edwards,<sup>1</sup> I have nothing to add to what has already been said; the examination of the Challenger collection of *Serolis* has brought to light no facts which tend to show any close resemblances between the two groups.

I have to thank Mr. E. J. Miers of the British Museum for kindly facilitating my study of the specimens of *Serolis* preserved in the national collection.

### HISTORICAL NOTICE.

The first recorded notice of *Serolis* is contained in Fabricius's *Systema Entomologiæ*, which was published in 1775. Under the name of *Oniscus paradoxus* is a short description of a species subsequently named *Serolis fabricii* by Leach, and which was obtained at the Straits of Magellan during Captain Cook's second voyage.

A few years later (1767) Fabricius briefly defined this species in his *Mantissa Insectorum*; in both these works *Oniscus* is placed in the class Synistata, which forms the third class of the four into which Fabricius divided what are known now as Arthropoda, and which included, besides the Isopoda, the majority of the Insecta now classed within the orders Hymenoptera, Diptera, and Heteroptera.

In his *Species Insectorum*, published in 1781, Fabricius gave another description of this species, still under the name of *Oniscus paradoxus*; here Fabricius hints at the Trilobite affinities of the genus "An protypon Entomolithi paradoxí? In multis certe convenit."

In 1798 appeared Fabricius's *Entomologia Systematica*, which is a considerable advance upon his earlier works. His eighth class, Polygonata, includes all the Crustaceans belonging to Latreille's order Isopoda as well as the genus *Monoculus*;<sup>2</sup> the name *Oniscus paradoxus* is altered to *Cymothoa paradoxa*, and a fuller definition of the genus is given.

Fabricius's *Cymothoa paradoxa* was first recognised as the type of a new genus by the English naturalist Dr. W. E. Leach; in the twelfth volume of the *Dictionnaire des Sciences Naturelles*, published in the year 1818, is an article by Leach on the Cymothoadæ, where *Cymothoa paradoxa* is redescribed under the name of *Serolis fabricii*.

In 1825 Desmarest in his *Considerations generales sur les Crustacés* recapitulated Leach's description of *Serolis fabricii*. Both Desmarest and Leach denied the supposed affinities of *Serolis* with the Trilobites.

In 1833 James Eights described in the *Transactions of the Albany Institute*, vol. ii.

<sup>1</sup> *Arch. d. Mus.*, t. ii. p. 5; *Ann. d. Sci. Nat.*, sér. 6, t. xii. art. No. 3.

<sup>2</sup> *Monoculus* includes all the members of the order Entomostraca.