

## DESCRIPTION OF THE GENUS.

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### *Serolis*, Leach.

- Oniscus*, Fabricius, Mantissa Insectorum, p. 240, 1787. In Part.  
*Asellus*, Olivier, Encycl. Méth., t. i. p. 252. In Part.  
*Cymothoa*, Fabricius, Entomol. Syst., ii. p. 503, 1793. In Part.  
*Serolis*, Leach, Dict. d. Sci. Nat., t. xvii. p. 340, 1825.  
*Brongniartia*, Eights, Trans. Alb. Inst., ii. p. 53, 1833.

*Definition.*—Body much depressed, round or oval in form, usually furnished with long sickle-shaped epimera. Cephalic shield broad, terminating anteriorly in a short median rostrum, uniting with first two segments of thorax to form a cephalothorax. Terminal segment of thorax rudimentary, its tergum unrepresented; sternum partially fused with that of preceding segment; epimera absent. Abdomen consisting of three free segments and a caudal shield; first segment devoid of epimera, and completely enclosed by the preceding and succeeding segments; second and third segments with longer or shorter epimera. Caudal shield usually pentagonal, with one or more longitudinal carinae, rarely smooth. First pair of antennae subequal in length to second pair, the former with four basal joints and a multiarticulate flagellum, the latter with five basal joints and a multiarticulate flagellum. Mandibles stout and strong, with a long three-jointed palp. Maxillae small and delicate. Maxillipedes large and operculiform, entirely covering maxillae. Ambulatory appendages seven pairs; anterior pair (in male second pair also) modified into a prehensile organ, the terminal joint folding back upon the greatly dilated penultimate joint; last thoracic appendage smaller than the others; first three pairs of abdominal appendages natatory, with broad basal and two expanded distal joints fringed with long plumose hairs; inner joint of second pair prolonged in the male into a penial filament; fourth and fifth appendages branchial; sixth pair natatory, comparatively small.

*External Characters.*—The depressed form of the body which characterises the family of the Isopoda as contrasted with the Amphipoda is very marked in the genus *Serolis*; in some species (*Serolis schythei*, *Serolis cornuta*, &c.) the body is almost flat; in others again (*Serolis convexa*, &c.) the convexity of the dorsal surface is greater, and *Serolis*