

Genus *Protosquilla*, n. gen. (Pl. XVI.).

*Diagnosis.*—Small Stomatopoda with the sixth abdominal somite more or less completely fused with the telson; the rostrum furnished with long acute median and antero-lateral spines; the dactylus of the raptorial claw dilated at the base, and without marginal spines, the eyes, antennary scales, and uropods small, and the hind body convex. Ontogeny unknown.

*General Description and Remarks.*—The following small but very interesting and remarkable Stomatopoda are very slightly known, and most of the species have, on account of the absence of spines on the dilated dactylus of the raptorial claw, been placed by various authors in Latreille's genus *Gonodactylus*, although they resemble each other in many features which are also points of difference from *Gonodactylus* as well as from all other Stomatopoda.

While it is also true that they differ greatly among themselves, it is not difficult to discover a common type of structure which runs through them all, and which should find its expression in our system of classification. I therefore place them in a distinct genus, and as many of their distinctive characteristics, such as the small size of their antennary scales and uropods, the great length of the acutely pointed rostrum, and the union of the sixth abdominal somite with the telson, are points of resemblance to the Stomatopod larva, I propose for the genus the name *Protosquilla*. This name is the more appropriate inasmuch as all the other Stomatopoda present evidences of divergent descent from a common stem form, which, like the living representatives of the genus *Protosquilla*, was characterised by the small size of its eyes, antennary scales, and uropods. In this genus the dactylus of the raptorial claw is dilated at the base, with microscopic serrations, but no spines, on its inner margin; the rostrum has a long slender acute median spine, and one or more pairs of acute antero-lateral spines; the eyes are small and subcylindrical; the carapace is smooth and flat, with well-marked longitudinal sutures, but with the transverse cervical suture obsolete; the hind body is convex, without dorsal carinæ on the first four terga, with its posterior end curved downwards, and with the sixth abdominal somite more or less completely fused with the telson. The telson and sixth abdominal somite differ in texture from the general surface of the body, and are often remarkably and elegantly ornamented; the telson is usually wider than long, and its marginal spines are pushed backwards, and are either obsolete or else developed in a remarkable manner. The eyes, antennary scales, and uropods are very small, and the prolongation from the ventral surface of the basal joint of the uropod ends in two short stout spines.

All but three of the following species are known to exhibit all of these characteristics, and while the published accounts of those three are so incomplete as to leave many points in uncertainty, the close general resemblance between them and the better known species indicates that future research will show that they share all the characteristics of the genus.