

Subfamily 2. MITHRACINÆ.<sup>1</sup>

*Mithracina*, Miers, Journ. Linn. Soc. Lond. (Zool.), vol. xiv. p. 666, 1879.

Carapace broadly triangulate or ovate-triangulate, sometimes transverse, with the sides slightly arcuate, interorbital space narrow. Rostrum short or obsolete. Second joint of antennæ not dilated. Chelipedes with the fingers excavated at the tips.

In this subfamily are included those Periceridæ which most nearly approach the Cancridæ in the form of the carapace, the obsolescence of the rostral spines, the small and completely defined orbits, the short epistoma, and the form and development of the chelipedes and ambulatory legs.

*Mithrax*, Leach.

*Mithrax* (Leach), Latreille, in Cuvier, Règne Animal, ed. 1, p. 23, 1817.

„ Milne Edwards (part), Hist. Nat. Crust., vol. i. pp. 317, 320, 1834.

„ Miers, Journ. Linn. Soc. Lond. (Zool.), vol. xiv. p. 667, 1879.

The carapace is depressed or moderately convex, sometimes longer than broad, but usually transverse and very broadly rounded at the branchial regions; dorsal surface uneven, tuberculated or spinose. The spines of the rostrum are usually very short, tuberculiform or even obsolete, but rarely well developed and acute. The orbits are small, well defined, armed with tubercles or short spines, or, rarely, entire. The epistoma is transverse, the post-abdomen in the male is distinctly seven-jointed. The eyes are small. The basal antennal joint is armed with a spine or tubercle at its distal extremity, followed usually by one or two on the exterior margin, and is very much enlarged; the following joints are not dilated, and the flagellum is short. The merus-joint of the exterior maxillipedes is usually truncated at the distal extremity, and emarginate at the antero-internal angle, and with the antero-external angle sometimes somewhat produced. The chelipedes, in the adult male, are well developed, and sometimes large and massive, with the palm dilated and compressed, fingers, when closed, with a wide intermarginal hiatus; more rarely they are more slender, with the fingers nearly meeting when closed. The ambulatory legs are of moderate length, sometimes spinose; dactyli nearly straight or slightly curved.

The species are rather numerous, and are, I believe, confined to the coasts of America and islands adjacent; they sometimes inhabit considerable depths.

They have already been enumerated and described by A. Milne Edwards in his fine work above cited. In the list which follows a few are added which have since been described, and a somewhat different arrangement is adopted. The genus *Nemausa*, A. Milne Edwards, is here regarded as a subgenus of *Mithrax*.

<sup>1</sup> The subfamily Othoniina, including the two genera *Othonia*, Bell, and *Cyclocaloma*, Miers, is not represented in the Challenger collection.