

joints compressed and longitudinally sulcated; in the fifth legs these joints are usually smooth, and as in other Portunidæ, considerably dilated; the terminal joint is oval and lamelliform.¹

The species of the genus *Neptunus* thus defined are very numerous, and occur in all the warmer temperate and tropical seas of the globe. *Neptunus sayi* is a pelagic and widely-distributed species, occurring commonly on the floating gulf-weed. Most of the species are, I believe, sub-littoral or shallow-water forms; several, however, have been recorded from depths varying between 20 and 50 fathoms, and the remarkable *Neptunus (Hellenus) spinicarpus* occurs usually at much greater depths, and has been taken by the Challenger off the coast of Brazil in (probably) 350 fathoms.

A. *Neptuni* with the spine on the interior margin of the carpus of the chelipedes normally developed:—

- a. Carapace broadly transverse; antero-lateral margins forming with the frontal margin a regular curve with long radius. Lateral epibranchial spine much longer than the preceding tooth.

Subgenus, *Neptunus*.

Neptunes arqués, A. Milne Edwards (pt.), Archiv. Mus. Hist. Nat., vol. x. p. 316, 1861.²

The following are species belonging to this subgenus, which are not referred to by A. Milne Edwards, or have been described since the publication of his monograph in 1861:—

Neptunus mexicanus (Gerstæcker, as *Euctenota*) = *Arenæus bidens*, T. J. Smith.
Mexico; Nicaragua.

Neptunus (?) *publica* (Gerstæcker). Coast of Brazil. (Perhaps a species of the subgenus *Amphitrite*.)

Neptunus trituberculatus, Miers. China and Japan.³

¹ In the species of this genus, the merus of the exterior maxillipedes is of very variable form; it may be (as in the typical species of *Neptunus*, *Neptunus pelagicus*) obliquely truncated at the distal extremity, with the antero-external angle rounded and not at all produced, the antero-internal angle slightly produced and rounded, or, as in the subgenus *Achelous*, de Haan (type *Achelous spinimanus*), more elongated, truncated and produced at neither angle, or, as in the species of the subgenus *Amphitrite*, de Haan (type *Amphitrite gladiator*), the antero-external angle of the merus may be considerably produced and acute. Sometimes, as in *Pontus*, de Haan (type *Pontus convexus* = *Neptunus sieboldi*, A. Milne Edwards), the antero-external angle is a right angle and the merus-joint is quadrate, sometimes, as in *Euctenota*, Gerstæcker (type *Euctenota mexicana*), it is produced and somewhat rounded at the distal extremity.

² From this section is excluded the genus *Callinectes*, distinguished by the L-shaped post-abdomen of the male which is regarded as distinct by A. Milne Edwards in his later work, Crust. in Miss. Sci. au Mexique.

³ *Neptunus madagascariensis*, Hoffmann, is very probably a species of *Callinectes*.