

*Xiphonectes*, A. Milne Edwards.

*Xiphonectes*, A. Milne Edwards, Nouv. Archiv. Mus. Hist. Nat., vol. ix. p. 157, 1873.

This genus, established by A. Milne Edwards for certain small species which have much the appearance of *Neptuni* which have not attained their full development, is distinguished from *Neptunus* (subgenus *Amphitrite*) by the following characters:—

The carapace is narrower than is usual in *Amphitrite*, the lateral epibranchial spine even more developed, and the lateral (or submedian) frontal lobes more prominent. The antero-lateral marginal teeth are spiniform, more remote from one another, and very rarely attain the number eight (exclusive of the lateral epibranchial spine) characteristic of *Amphitrite*. The orbits and eyes are very large.

An examination of the series in the British (Natural History) Museum and Challenger collections, shows, I think, that the various described species of this genus must be regarded as varieties of one widely distributed type, which occurs throughout the Indo-Pacific region in water of only moderate depth (to 18 fathoms).

*Xiphonectes longispinosus* (Dana).

*Amphitrite longispinosa*, Dana, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philad., p. 84, 1852; U.S. Explor. Exped., vol. xiii. Crust. 1, p. 277, pl. xvii. fig. 2, 1852.

*Amphitrite vigilans*, Dana, tom. cit., p. 278, pl. xvii. fig. 3, var.

*Neptunus vigilans* and *longispinosus*, A. Milne Edwards, Archiv. Mus. Hist. Nat., vol. x. pp. 336, 337, 1861.

? *Xiphonectes leptocheles*, A. Milne Edwards, Nouv. Archiv. Mus. Hist. Nat., vol. ix. p. 159, pl. iv. fig. 1, 1873, var.

*Neptunus vigilans*, Richters, Decapoda in Möbius Beitr. zur. Meeresfauna der Mauritius und der Seychellen, p. 152, 1880.

*Xiphonectes vigilans*, var. *obtusidentatus*, Miers, Crust. in Rep. Zool. Coll. H.M.S. "Alert," p. 538, pl. xlviii. fig. A, 1884.

Tongatabu, 18 fathoms (Station 172), lat. 20° 58' 0" S., long. 175° 9' 0" E. Two small males.

These specimens offer a curious intermixture of the characters cited as characteristic of each of the supposed species, *Xiphonectes longispinosus*, *Xiphonectes vigilans*, and *Xiphonectes leptocheles*. In the larger specimen, the chelipedes are comparatively robust as in the typical *Xiphonectes longispinosus*, in the smaller they are slender and elongated as in *Xiphonectes leptocheles*. In the larger specimen the arm or merus has four spines on its anterior (or inner) margin, as in the typical *Xiphonectes vigilans*, but the six spines of the antero-lateral margins are equidistant, as in *Xiphonectes longispinosus*. In the smaller specimen there are five spines on the anterior margin of the arm. In both specimens the post-abdomen is composed of only five distinct segments; in the larger specimen, with robust chelipedes, the sixth segment is more nearly of the form figured by