

maxillipedes is sometimes inserted at the antero-external angle of the merus, sometimes at the apex or near its antero-internal angle, and may be completely concealed beneath the merus. The chelipedes in the adult male are very robust and usually unequally developed. The dactyli of the ambulatory legs are nearly always granulated and armed with spines disposed in longitudinal series.¹

Geocarcinus, Leach.

Geocarcinus, Leach, Trans. Linn. Soc. Lond., vol. xi. p. 322, 1815.

„ Milne Edwards, Hist. Nat. Crust., vol. ii. p. 26, 1837; Ann. d. Sci. Nat., ser. 3, Zool. xx. p. 201, 1853.

Carapace transverse and anteriorly convex, with the mesogastric and cervical sutures strongly defined, and the branchial regions antero-laterally convex and greatly developed; the antero-lateral margins not distinctly dentated. The front is deflexed and narrow or of moderate width, anteriorly truncated, nearly reaches the anterior margin of the buccal cavity, and almost completely covers the antennules. Orbits of moderate size, with the superior margins subentire, no distinct tooth at the exterior angle, and with a well-marked hiatus in the inferior margin, near the interior subocular lobe, which is in contact with the front, and excludes the short antennæ from the orbit. No distinct ridges are developed upon the endostome or palate. The post-abdomen in the male is usually distinctly seven-jointed. The eyes are set on rather short, thick pedicels. The antennæ are very short and occupy the angle formed by the contact of the inner subocular lobe of the orbit with the front, their basal joint is slightly dilated and does not reach the frontal margin. The exterior maxillipedes bulge out externally, and enclose a lozenge-shaped interspace; ischium and merus are broad, the ischium not produced at the antero-internal angle, merus distally rounded and prolonged so as almost entirely to conceal the following joints, it has sometimes a fissure in the antero-lateral margin; the following joint is articulated with the merus on its inner surface. The chelipedes (in the adult male) are considerably developed and usually unequal; merus trigonous and somewhat elongated; carpus without a spine on the interior margin; palm rounded above; fingers distally acute and dentated on the inner margins. The ambulatory legs are robust and somewhat elongated, with the penultimate and terminal joints, and sometimes the antepenultimate joint, compressed, and armed with spinules disposed in longitudinal series.

The species included in this genus are not numerous and inhabit, for the most part, the West Indian Islands, Brazil, Central America and California. One species, *Geocarcinus lagostoma*, has apparently a very extensive range, *i.e.*, from Australasia (?) to the Cape

¹ In *Uca* they are compressed and unarmed.