

adult males) are usually of moderate size, sometimes rather slender and very considerably elongated; the dactyli of the ambulatory legs are styliform and are not armed with strong spines as in the Geocarcinidæ.

The species are for the most part small and littoral or shallow-water forms, but occasionally occur in deep water.

Subfamily 1. CARCINOPLACINÆ.

Carapace transverse, usually convex, and more or less cancroïd in form, with the antero-lateral margins arcuated, spinose, or dentated, rarely entire. Frontal region usually of moderate width, orbits rather small. The post-abdomen at the base usually covers the whole width of the sternum between the bases of the fifth ambulatory legs. The fifth joint of the exterior maxillipedes articulates at the antero-internal angle of the merus. Chelipedes in the adult male usually subequal, and sometimes considerably elongated. Ambulatory legs moderately elongated, slender, with the dactyli styliform, sometimes compressed.

The genus *Pseudorhombila* must be taken as the type of this family, since in it the characters are most evident, and it is the only genus included in the *Histoire Naturelle des Crustacés*; moreover the designation has priority over *Carcinoplax*, which is the name proposed by Milne Edwards in 1852, for the species of *Curtonotus*, de Haan, *Curtonotus* having been previously used in the Coleoptera.

The genera have been divided into the following sections, which are apparently connected by insensible gradations:—

1. Euryplacinæ.

Euryplacinæ, Stimpson, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoöl., vol. ii. p. 150, 1870.

Eucratopsinæ, Stimpson, *tom. cit.*, vol. ii. p. 151, 1870.

In this section the antero-lateral margins of the carapace are dentated or spinose, and the post-abdomen in the male does not entirely cover the sternum at the base. In the typical genera, which are nearly related to the Cancroïdea through *Panopeus* and *Galene*, the last segment of the sternum is exposed at the anterior corners only; these genera are, *Euryplax*, Stimpson, *Panoplax*, Stimpson, *Eucratopsis*, S. J. Smith, and perhaps *Glyptoplax*, Smith (this genus is placed by Milne Edwards in the Cancroïdea near *Panopeus*).

In other genera, e.g., *Speocarcinus*, Stimpson, *Eucratoplax*, A. Milne Edwards, and *Prionoplax*, Milne Edwards (if this genus truly belongs here), the post-abdomen of the male is much narrower at the base, and a large part of the posterior segment of the sternum is exposed.

The genera of this section, except perhaps the typical species of *Prionoplax*, are all American, and are not represented in the Challenger collection.