

With regard to the terminology employed in the descriptions of new genera and species, I have found the simple divisions of the "regions" of the carapace, long ago indicated by Desmarest, and modified by H. Milne Edwards in 1834-40, sufficient for all practical purposes. These regions are (besides the frontal, orbital and antennal regions, and the epistoma) the gastric, cardiac and intestinal regions, situated in the median dorsal line, the hepatic, situated ordinarily behind the orbits and near to the antero-lateral margins of the carapace, the branchial regions, covering the whole of the postero-lateral parts of the dorsal surface, and the pterygostomian regions, situated on the inferior surface, and between the antero-lateral margins and the buccal cavity. The description of the carapace and post-abdomen is followed by that of the appendages and limbs in regular sequence, a complicated terminology being avoided wherever possible.

With regard to the synonymical citations, it has been thought sufficient, as a rule, in the case of well-known species, to refer to the original authority for the species and to a recognisable figure, also to the latest or principal authority for the group to which the species belongs, but the synonyma are occasionally given more fully when there has been anything to add or elucidate with regard to them.

Had health and time allowed, I had hoped to give a complete bibliographical list of the works and memoirs relating to the Brachyura, but health, which necessitated the resignation of my post in the British (Natural History) Museum, compelled also the abandonment of this idea, and I thought it right to place the manuscript of the Report in the hands of Mr. Murray for publication. The whole of the systematic part, which had been completed as far as the description of the genera and species was concerned, though not finally revised for press, was accordingly printed off before my health again permitted me to return to the subject. I have therefore found it impossible to insert many details that would have been desirable regarding the affinities and limitation of the various families and subfamilies, &c., and a few errors and omissions occur, which are referred to in the list of errata at the end of the Report; perhaps also the lists of species are not in all cases as complete as a thorough revision of the literature would have made them. I have to thank the Editor of the Reports, and Mr. T. Wemyss Fulton, M.B., of the Editorial Staff of the Challenger Office, for the care that was taken to render the text as correct as possible while the sheets were passing through the press.

The generic descriptions of the earlier part of the Report, relating to the Oxyrhyncha, and drawn up when I was much engaged with other work, might, perhaps, have been extended with advantage to embrace further structural details, and some of the earlier plates are inferior to the later in finish; nevertheless they will in all cases, it is hoped, serve the purpose for which they were intended, namely, to illustrate and identify the species; and my best thanks are due to Mr. R. Morgan for the pains which he at all times bestowed upon this work, in which he had had previously but little experience.