

SYSTEMATIC CLASSIFICATION OF THE BRACHYURA.

In place of a complete bibliographical list I subjoin the following brief notice of the classifications proposed by the leading systematists. If time and opportunity had permitted, even this short abstract of the subject could have been with advantage treated in greater detail and thereby rendered more complete.¹

Professor H. Milne Edwards, in 1834, in the first volume of his great work,² separated from the Brachyura of earlier authors, and designated Anomura, those forms in which the sternum is linear, and the post-abdomen is less closely inflexed beneath the sternal surface of the body, and bears more or less well-developed appendages upon the penultimate segment. He divided the restricted Brachyura into the four great natural groups or subdivisions, Oxyrhinques (Oxyrhyncha), Cyclomètopes (Cyclometopa), Catomètopes (Catometopa), and Oxystomes (Oxystomata), which have been retained by most succeeding authors, and are adopted in the present Report, with these modifications only, that I follow Professor Dana in placing the Thelphusinea (which are regarded by Milne Edwards as a tribe of the Catometopa) and the somewhat heterogeneous group Corystoidea in the Cyclometopa; the affinities of the Corystoidea, however restricted, seeming to be rather with the Oxyrhyncha and the Cyclometopa than with the Oxystomata where Milne Edwards places them.

This method of restricting the Brachyura, indicated in the *Histoire naturelle des Crustacés*, was apparently adhered to by Milne Edwards in 1852 in the article entitled "Observations sur les affinités zoologiques et la classification naturelle des Crustacés,"³ where, however, the term Ocypodidæ is adopted for the group designated Catometopa in his earlier work, and an arrangement of the genera proposed, which I think to be in many particulars less natural and convenient to systematists than that of Dana, which appeared almost contemporaneously, and which in its turn has been modified by Dr. Stimpson and in the present Report.

It will be unnecessary to refer in further detail to the arrangement of the families and subfamilies indicated in the *Histoire naturelle des Crustacés*, a work which is in the hands of every student of the group.

De Haan, in 1835-1849, in his great work on the Crustacea of Japan,⁴ which is a standard work of reference with all students of the Crustacea, divides the Brachyura into two great primary sections or groups, as follows:—(1) Brachygnatha, with the four subdivisions Cancroidea, Majacea, Dromiacea, and Trichidea, and (2) Oxystomata,

¹ Reference is made here only to those works which deal in a general way with the arrangement of the whole group, and not to several papers where special families or subfamilies are dealt with, nor, of course, to many memoirs relating to the faunæ of particular regions, or describing collections from special localities.

² *Hist. Nat. des Crust.*, vol. i. pp. 247, 263, 1834.

³ *Ann. d. Sci. Nat.*, ser. 3 (Zool.), xviii. p. 126, 1852.

⁴ *Crust. in v. Siebold, Fauna Japonica, Introd.*, p. xi., 1849.