Pleon short, robust.

First pair of antennæ having the flagella unequal; first joint of the peduncle subequal with the two succeeding ones; stylocerite prolonged.

Second pair of antennæ having the scaphocerite short, not extending to the extremity of the terminal joint of the peduncle.

First pair of pereiopoda unequal, larger hand ovate, smooth; chela short; dactylos rounded, arcuate, scarcely one-third the length of the palm. The smaller hand robust and more normal in its form. Second pair of pereiopoda slender and multiarticulate, subequal in length with the first pair.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Length, entire, | 17 | mm. (0·6 in.). |
| „ of carapace, | 8 | „ |
| Depth of carapace, | 3·5 | „ |
| Length of pleon, | 9 | „ |
| „ of telson, | 2 | „ |

*Habitat.*—Arafura Sea. One specimen; female.

Dana records his specimen from the Sooloo Sea at a depth of 6 fathoms, and from the Fiji Islands.

## *Betæus*, Dana.

*Betæus*, Dana, U.S. Explor. Exped., Crust., vol. i. p. 558.

"Like *Alpheus* in the eyes, antennæ and feet. Front without beak. Anterior hands more or less inverted, the movable finger being the lower and outer."

Such is Dana's description, but it appears to me to be one more convenient for classificatory purposes than natural in arrangement.

In the most marked cases the rostrum is a very unimportant feature in this group, and is frequently reduced to a slender point, so that its absence altogether is a character that appears to me to be of secondary importance. Nevertheless it appears to be a very constant law, that an important, but not conspicuous, internal variation may be correlated with a slight but constant external variation in form.

Dana says that the inverted position of the propodos is also a marked character of the genus, but this appears not to vary much from the condition in some species of *Alpheus*, as the abnormal form of the propodos in its relation to the dactylos is one of the striking features of many of the species.

The arrangement of the branchiæ is the same as in *Alpheus*, and so are most of the external parts, but in one specimen, in which the female was gravid with ova, I observed that they differed from those of *Alpheus* both in form, size, and arrangement. In *Alpheus* the ova are generally round, small, and massed together, as in most Macrura, by small connecting threads, while in *Betæus* they are larger and more oval.