

Family SYNOPIDÆ, Bovallius, 1886.

In Dana's classification, 1852, the Synopinæ are the third subfamily of the Hyperidæ; Spence Bate, in 1862, made the Synopiades the first subfamily of the Oxycephalidæ; Kossmann, in 1880, places the family Synopiadæ in the tribe Hyperina; Bovallius, in 1886, named the family Synopidæ, with the following diagnosis:—

“The *head* is triangular, not tumid.

“The *eyes* occupy the upper median part of the head, and are distinctly faceted.

“The *mandibles* are well-developed, with a three-jointed palp.

“The *maxillipeds*, coalesced at the base, carry strong four-jointed palps.

“The *antennæ* are fixed on the under side of the head. The second pair are like those of the Gammarids.

“The *seventh pair* of *pereiopoda* are not transformed.

“The *uropoda* are like those of the Gammarids.

“The *telson* is cleft to the middle.”

According to Bovallius the Synopidæ are the first family of a new tribe which he names Amphipoda Synopidea, and in which he places two other families, named respectively, Trischizostomatidæ, Sars, and Hyperiopsidæ. In my opinion the resemblance of *Trischizostoma* (or rather *Guerinia*) to such genera of the Lysianassidæ as *Acidostoma* and *Acontiostoma* is far too close to permit of its separation from the Amphipoda Gammarina (Gammaridea, Bovallius). I have already (p. 576) expressed a similar opinion with regard to the Synopidæ, and think that Claus was quite right when, in 1871, he incidentally remarked that the genus *Synopia* belonged to the Gammarids. If the tribe Synopidea be set aside, much of the diagnosis above given becomes superfluous, since what is said of the maxillipeds, the second pair of antennæ, the seventh (our *fifth*) pair of peræopods, and the uropods, does not require mention for an accepted family of the Amphipoda Gammarina. On the other hand, the remnant of the diagnosis would not suffice to distinguish this family from the nearly related Syrrhoidæ and Pontoporeiidæ; I propose therefore to add the following characters:—

Upper Lip apically bilobed.

Mandibles with the second joint of the palp broad, the third minute.

First Maxillæ with the inner plate small.

Second Gnathopods not subchelate.

First and Second Peræopods with the third and fourth joints dilated.

Whether the eyes are in reality faceted I am unable to say.