

it as the sixth family of the Amphipoda:—"Pedium caudalium unum vel plura absunt—*Aberrantia*, S. BATE," this character embracing also the families Caprellidæ and Cyamidæ, the next being peculiar to the Dulichidæ, "Cauda minime obsoleta, segmentis 6 composita." The telson is included as one of the *six* segments mentioned. Boeck in 1870 added two new genera, *Paradulichia* and *Xenodice*, and gave the following definition of the family:—

"*Upper Lip* very broad, apically subsinuate.

"*Mandibles* strong, apically dentate, with the secondary plate large and dentate; molar tubercle robust; spines of the spine-row few but strong, serrate at the extremity of the convex margin; the palp long, very slender, its third joint shorter than the second.

"*Lower Lip* strong; with the inner plates very strong.

"*First Maxillæ* with the inner plate larger or smaller; the second joint of the palp elongate, apically spined.

"*Maxillipeds* having the outer plate armed with thick spines on the inner margin; the fourth joint of the palp thick, apically armed with one strong unguiform spine.

"The body elongate, linear, depressed; the side-plates very small; the pleon consisting of only five segments and furnished with five pairs of appendages, (the sixth segment of the peræon generally coalesced with the seventh).

"*Upper* and *Lower Antennæ* subpediform, elongate, (the upper generally furnished with an accessory flagellum)."

The two statements which I have enclosed in brackets were added in 1876. In 1882 Sars places the Dulichiidæ as the twenty-second and last family of the Gammarina, with the four genera included in it by Boeck. The later definitions of the family by Carus and Gerstaecker are quoted in the remarks on the genus *Platophium*. All writers who have defined the family have not unnaturally laid stress on the want of the full number of the segments in the pleon. Spence Bate considers that the sixth segment is wanting. Haswell, in describing "*Cyrtophium* (?) *hystrix*," which he afterwards transferred to *Lætmatophilus*, speaks of "the absence of the fourth segment of the pleon." Gerstaecker regards the fourth and fifth segments of the pleon as coalesced. Of the three opinions this seems the most probable, but the further alternative, that the fifth segment is wanting, may have better claims to acceptance than any of them. However that may be, it is not so much the position of the missing segment, as the fact of its absence or indistinguishable coalescence, that causes a very great difficulty as regards classification. In the genus *Platophium*, as will be seen, the number of segments is complete, and yet in other respects this genus bears so close a relationship to *Lætmatophilus*, that it cannot be satisfactory to classify them in different families. In speaking therefore of the Dulichiidæ as having only five segments and five pairs of appendages to the pleon, the convenient expression *plerumque, for the most part*, ought to be added.