

imperfect. Their first undoubted appearance is in the Cretaceous rocks, where they are represented by *Homolopsis*, Carter, from the English Gault and Greensand; and an allied form, *Dromilites*, Bell, occurs in the Eocene. Certain fossils are referable to the Raninidea, and even to the existing genus *Ranina*.

DROMIDEA.

Dromiacea, De Haan, Crust. Japon., p. 102, 1850.

Dromidea, Dana, U.S. Explor. Exped., vol. xiii., Crust., part i. p. 400, 1852.

„ Miers, Catal. New Zealand Crust., p. 57, 1876.

„ Haswell, Catal. Austral. Crust., p. 138, 1882.

Carapace subglobose or subquadrate, the frontal region narrow. Last pair of legs and frequently also the penultimate pair subdorsal in position and of small size. Abdomen folded under the thorax, the penultimate segment usually without appendages; five pairs of appendages in the female, the first pair rudimentary. Lateral thoracic apodemata united in a common centre, forming a sternal canal. External maxillipedes with the merus and ischium subquadrangular.

To De Haan belongs the credit of having first characterised this group; but the family Dromiacea was referred by this author to his section Brachygnatha. It contains the most highly organised Anomura, *i.e.*, forms which have assumed for the most part Brachyuran characteristics, so much so that by many competent authorities they are placed in the Brachyura; they are, however, separated from the latter by the position of the female openings and the rudimentary condition of the posterior legs.

Family I. DROMIDÆ.

Dromiens, Milne-Edwards, Hist. Nat. des Crust., t. ii. p. 168, 1837.

Dromidæ, Dana, U.S. Explor. Exped., vol. xiv., Crust., part ii. p. 1428, 1852.

Carapace subglobular, rarely flattened. Legs of moderate size, cylindrical, the fourth and fifth pairs (fifth pair only in *Dynomene*) short and subdorsal in position, usually prehensile. Eyes capable of retraction into well-defined orbits; the antennules folded in special fossæ. Males of many species (perhaps of all) with the vasa deferentia protruded from the coxal joints of the fifth pair of legs and forming tubular prolongations. Species inhabiting shallow water and moderate depths; the majority protecting the body by an Ascidian, Sponge, or valve of a Lamellibranch.

Previous to 1858 the majority of the species were included in the genus *Dromia* of Fabricius; in that year Stimpson rearranged this heterogeneous collection into six genera (five being new), relying chiefly for generic characters on the disposition of the sternal