

# INTRODUCTION.

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## THE CLASSIFICATION OF THE ANOMURA.

In the following account I propose to discuss briefly the more important schemes of Classification which have been adopted for the group.

In the first volume of his classical *Histoire Naturelle des Crustacés*, published in 1834, Professor H. Milne-Edwards separated from the Brachyura and Macrura of older writers, under the designation of "Anomoures," those forms in which the thoracic sterna are linear, the penultimate abdominal segment is provided with appendages, the female genital openings are placed on the basal joints of the legs, and the abdomen is either loosely applied to the under surface of the thorax or semi-extended. In the earlier part of the century Latreille, who occupied a very prominent place among the older carcinologists, divided the Decapod Crustacea into its two branches, Brachyures and Macroures, the latter including a section Anomaux, in which many of the forms we now term Anomura were placed, the remainder being referred to the Brachyura.

In the second volume of his great work, Milne-Edwards subdivided the Anomoures into two families, termed respectively the "Apterures" and the "Pterygures," which were characterised by the absence or presence of terminal abdominal appendages. In the first of these families he included such forms as *Dromia*, *Homola*, *Lithodes*, and *Ranina*, while *Hippa*, *Pagurus*, and *Porcellana* were included in the second. The Galatheidæ were referred by the same naturalist to the Macroures, and the aberrant genus *Latreillia* was placed in the Brachyures.

De Haan, in his fine work on the Crustacea of Japan,<sup>1</sup> divides the Decapoda into five great sections, as follows:—(1) Brachygnatha, including the Dromiacea; (2) Oxystomata; (3) Astacina; (4) Carides; and (5) Anomala. As regards the Anomala he has followed Latreille, and he further subdivides the group into the following families:—(1) Galatheidea; (2) Porcellanidea; (3) Hippidea; (4) Paguroidea; (5) Lithodeacea. De Haan's classification is to a large extent founded on the structure of the mouth organs, and it has till quite recently scarcely received from carcinologists that attention which it deserves; at the same time there can be little doubt that it is in many respects, as

<sup>1</sup> Crustacea in v. Siebold, *Fauna Japonica*, 1835-49.