

AUSTRALASIAN ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION
1911-14.

UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF SIR DOUGLAS MAWSON, D.Sc., B.E.

SCIENTIFIC REPORTS.
SERIES C.—ZOOLOGY AND BOTANY.
VOL. V, PART 2.

BRACHYURA

BY

MARY J. RATHBUN,

U.S. NATIONAL MUSEUM, WASHINGTON, U.S.A.

WITH ONE FIGURE IN THE TEXT.

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The crabs are referable to three species, two of which are well known. The third is a Megalops of large size which cannot be assigned to any described form, but appears to belong to Dana's genus *Marestita*. The identity of the adult form of the species of this genus is still to be determined.

HALICARCINUS PLANATUS (*Fabricius, 1775*).

For synonymy, see Stebbing, Trans. Roy. Soc. Edinburgh, vol. 50, 1914, p. 271. Macquarie Island:—

- (1) Under stones and on spongy covering to rocks below low water; 24 females. Various colours, in spirit, from slaty-blue to reddish-brown; legs banded. Some with *Spirorbis* encrusting.
- (2) C. 38; Hamilton; 4 females, 2 juv.
- (3) C. 51; 3 juv.
- (4) Common under stones, North end; 6 females, soft shell (3 ovig.). Some with *Spirorbis* encrusting.
- (5) Under stones, littoral zone; 1 female ovig.
- (6) 1 female, 3 juv.
- (7) 1 female, 7 juv.

All the specimens have the posterior of the lateral teeth of the carapace well developed and acute, while the anterior tooth is variable, often obsolescent—that is, obtuse-angled and blunt; in other cases acute or even sharp-pointed, and in a few specimens sharp on one side of the carapace and reduced on the other. The lateral teeth of the front are well separated from the median tooth, and are produced downward at the sides so that their inner surface is concave.

NECTOCARCINUS ANTARCTICUS (*Jacquinet*.)

Portunus antarcticus Jacquinet, in Jacquinet and Lucas, Voy. au Pôle Sud, Zool., vol. 3, 1853, Crust., p. 51; atlas, plate V, figs. 1-5.

1 male, 2 females, without indication of locality. Known only from New Zealand and the Auckland Islands.

MEGALOPS STAGE OF CRAB, THE ADULT OF WHICH IS UNKNOWN.

MARESTIA Dana.

MARESTIA MAWSONI, *new species*.

(Fig. 1, a-h.)

Type locality.—Surface, off coast Macquarie Island, May 20, 1912; 5 specimens, accidentally dried in transportation.

Size.—Length of carapace on median line, 7 mm.

Description.—Resembles *M. atlantica* Dana,* the carapace being narrowed anteriorly, and flattened. The edge of the front, seen from above, has a similar indentation, but it is U-shaped, not V-shaped. The rostrum is vertical and has a rounded instead of a pointed tip. The upper margin of the orbit has a thin edge, and the adjacent carapace is depressed and furrowed. The large eyes have a large terminal cornea. Terminal segment of abdomen broader than long, margin arcuate and entire.

Chelipeds short, stout; upper edge of merus acute, very finely serrulate; carpus rounded, finely roughened, a depression near middle of outer surface; chela thick; palm flattened above, outer surface with 2 or 3 shallow, longitudinal depressions on the upper two-thirds, intervening ridges finely roughened; fingers irregularly toothed, crossing at tips, narrowly gaping at base, a slender tooth projecting from the dactylus into the gape. Ambulatory legs similar to those of *atlantica*; dactyli armed with 6 or 7 uneven spines, the fifth spine from the proximal end being the longest; the dactyli of the last pair have at the extremity 4 long setæ.

*Crustacea U.S. Expl. Exped., Vol. 1, 1852, p. 489; atlas, 1855, pl. XXXI, figs. 3a-3g.

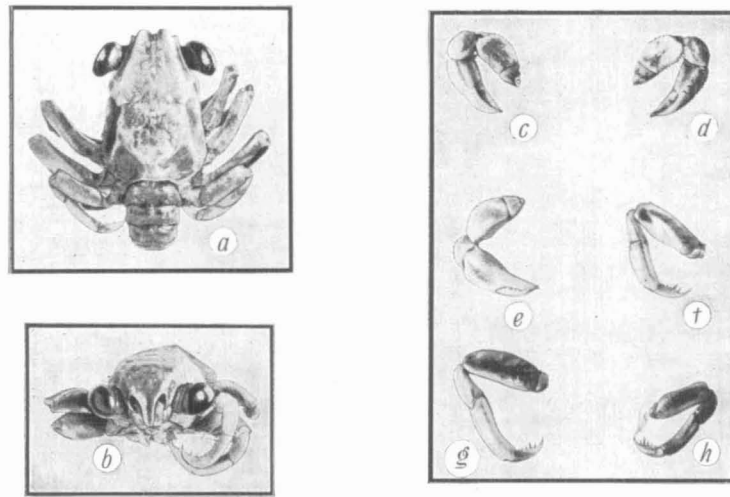


Fig. 1.—*Marestia mawsoni*, $\times 3$.

- a.*—Dorsal view of paratype, without chelipeds.
- b.*—Front view of another paratype.
- c.*—Right cheliped, dorsal view.
- d.*—Left cheliped, dorsal view.
- e.*—Left cheliped, ventral view.
- f.*—Ambulatory leg of first pair.
- g.*—Ambulatory leg of third pair.
- h.*—Ambulatory leg of fourth pair.

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