

Notes on the Mysidae of Liverpool Bay.

By A.O. Walker, F.L.S.

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In Bell's "History of British Stalk-eyed Crustacea," only one genus (Mysis) - Thysanopoda being now placed in a separate family - with three species is recorded, as belonging to the family Mysidae. The number has since been greatly increased, the genera now being Erythropis, Mysidopsis, Leptomysis, Mysis, and Siriella, containing at least thirteen species in addition to those described by Bell. Most of these are enumerated by the Rev. Canon A.M. Norman, in the Ann. and Mag. of Nat. Hist. for 1887.

The British species of the genus Mysis, so far as known to me, are: -

- a. Mysis flexuosa, Müller = M. chamaeleon, Thomson.
 - b. M. inermis, Rathke ...
 - c. M. arenosa, Sars ...
 - d. M. spiritus, Norman ...
 - e. M. lamornae, Couch ...
 - f. M. productus, Couch ...
 - g. M. vulgaris, Thompson ...
 - h. M. oberon, Couch ...
 - i. M. griffithsiae, Bell ...
- } Apex of telson bifurcate.
- } Apex of telson entire.

a. Bell - Hist. British Stalked-eyed Crustacea, p. 336. Norman - Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., vol. VI (3rd Series), p. 429.
 b. Norman - Rep. Brit. Association, 1868, p. 255.
 c. Sars - Nye Bidrag till Kandaogabon Middelhavets Invertebratafauna, &c.

Of the above species only two were recorded in last year's Report of the Liverpool Marine Biology Committee, viz. M. flexuosa and M. spiritus, both of which are tolerably common on the North Wales coast. To these must now be added M. vulgaris, taken last summer by Mr. F. Archer.

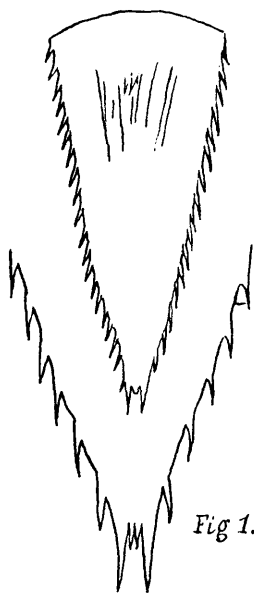


Fig 1.



Fig 2.

at the mouth of the ALT. Mr. Archer kindly sent me twelve specimens, of which nine were males and three females. They proved to be remarkable, from the fact that four of the males and two of the females had the tail-

d. Norman - Ann. and Mag. N. Hist., 3rd Series, vol. VI, p. 431.
 e. do. do. do. p. 430, Zoologist, 1856.
 f. Couch - Ann. and Mag. N. Hist., 2nd Series, vol. XII, p. 156, pl. 6.
 g. Thompson - Zool. Researches. Bell - Brit. Stalk-eyed Crustacea.
 h. Couch - Zoologist vol. XIV, 1856, pp. 5284-88.
 i. Bell - f. c.

See also Sars, Monograph of the Norwegian Mysidae, for figures and description of most of the above species.

piece or telson (i.e. the modified terminal segment of the pleon or abdomen) abnormal.

The normal telson tapers gradually with almost straight sides to a narrow apex, which terminates in two strong and rather long spines, having two very small spines between them (fig. 1). In one of the males the abnormality consists only in having three instead of two small spines between them, but in the other three abnormal males and in the two females the spines at the apex are much more numerous, and are irregular in size and direction, and in one of the females the telson itself is markedly unsymmetrical, as shown by the drawing (fig. 2).

Mr. Archer informs me that there is much sewage in the Alt, which may perhaps be the cause of the abnormality in question. Had only one of the abnormal specimens been taken without any of the normal form it is easily conceivable that a new species might have been founded on it; the moral of which is that when one has a chance of securing a number of specimens one should always do so.

Note. — Since the above was written I have taken Mysis bairdii (Couch) at Corrym Bay, in three fathoms, on the 24th May, 1887. It was taken with other crustacea in a dredge lined with canvas, and having the lips protected by round sticks fastened on them so as to prevent them from digging into the sand.

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Proceed. Trans. Liverpool Biol. Soc., Vol. I, 1887, p. 26-28
2 fig.

Gastrioceras spinifer (Gris) - None were taken with the mosquito net haul on the gravel on the west side of Bullhill Bank.

Leptomys mediterranea, G. O. Sars. Two taken off the Polesands in 2-3 fathoms.

Leptomys lingua, G. O. Sars. One taken off the Polesands in 2-3 fathoms.

Macromys flexuosa, Müller. Taken everywhere in more or less abundance when using the mosquito net haul. Common in the dock.

Schisto-mys Forsteri, A. M. Norman. One taken between Pole and Mowbray Sands.

Schisto-mys Hølleri, G. O. Sars. More or less common everywhere inside the estuary with M. flexuosa. One taken in the dock.

We are indebted to Mr. W. T. Beumont for the following note on this species: -

"The specimens of Schisto-mys Hølleri from Exmouth, while agreeing generally with the descriptions of Sars and Norman, and with the figures of the first-named author, apparently failed to conform to the type in certain particulars, as did those found at Salcombe last summer. On the half-frozen adult specimens examined (males and females, from 9 to 13 mm. in length, inclusive of antennal scales and uropods), the number of spines on the margin of the inner uropods varied from twelve to sixteen, while an immature example of 8 mm. had already nine and ten spines respectively on those appendages; and in all the difference in length between inner and outer uropods is less marked than in the type. A further point of agreement with the published descriptions concerns the last pair of pereopods, which in Exmouth examples cannot be strictly described as 'rudimentary', or as being 'about half the length of preceding pairs'. In point of fact they are very much shorter than some of the anterior pairs, but the decrease in size is exhibited gradually in successive pairs; and, moreover, a nail is present, though small."

Neomys vulgaris (J. V. Thompson). A few taken on the sand banks east of Towderham mussel beds (sta. 2).