

NOTES ON AUSTRALIAN DECAPODA.

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(Plates ix-xi and Figures 1-2.)

Family OCYPODIDAE.

Subfamily SCOPIMERINAE.

Genus SCOPIMERA *De Haan*.

SCOPIMERA INFLATA *A. M. Edwards*.

(Plate ix, figs. 1-2, Plate x, figs. 1-2, Plate xi, and Fig. 1.)

Scopimera inflata Kemp, Rec. Indian Mus., xvi, 5, no. 22, 1919, p. 321.

Although no species of *Scopimera* has been hitherto recognised from the Australian coasts, *S. inflata* is very common on many Queensland beaches, and extends as far southward as Port Jackson, New South Wales. It was first observed by one of us on a coastal beach near Cooktown, North Queensland, and later at Port Stephens, New South Wales. We have it also from Ballina and Trial Bay, New South Wales, and a few small examples were collected on a sheltered beach in Port Jackson.

Habits.—*Scopimera inflata* is rarely found on any but coastal beaches where the sea water is clear and free from mud. The inner harbour beaches on which it occurs are always formed of clean sand, and are in the vicinity of strong currents. It is commonly found near small streams of fresh water which cross the beaches, and its burrows are sometimes found in sand which is kept moist by the soakage of brackish water. But, unlike its allies of the genus *Ocypode*, *Scopimera* is unable to withstand any buffeting by the surf. It prefers flat and sheltered positions of the coastal beaches where the waves are small (Plate x, fig. 1), and where the rise and fall of the tide leaves the sand undisturbed.

In such favourable localities large areas of flat sand several hundred square yards in extent may be seen to be covered with millions of tiny pellets, which, often being above the reach of neap tides, may remain for days together until they are disintegrated by a flowing spring tide.