

AN AUSTRALIAN SPECIES OF *ACETES* (CRUSTACEA MACRURA, SERGESTIDAE), WITH REMARKS ON THE DISTRIBUTION AND LITERATURE OF THE GENUS.

By

A. N. COLEFAX, B.Sc.,

Department of Zoology, University of Sydney.

(Figures 1-19.)

Introductory.—The genus *Acetes* was established by Milne Edwards in the year 1830 (*A. indicus*), and since that time sixteen species and one subspecies have been added; these are set forth in the distribution table given below, and the present species, which is described for the first time, brings the total up to eighteen.

Distribution.—*Acetes* is one of the Sergestidae, a notably planktonic group, and, whilst *Acetes* may be taken in the tow-net at times, it also appears to frequent the shallow brackish flats found in estuaries, where salinity is low and the bottom muddy. To quote Kemp (1917): "The species of *Acetes* are found gregariously swimming in great numbers in mid-water or near the surface. They are apparently met with only in coastal waters; they occur near the shore in the open sea, and are frequently common in estuaries and backwaters. They are often found in water of low salinity and occasionally in places where it is quite fresh, but penetrate little if at all beyond the reach of tidal influence. The species are fished commercially in India and Japan, the small size of the individuals being evidently compensated by the great abundance in which they are taken."

To this may be added a note by Hansen (1933): "With bobbinet around the tip of the otter trawl, this *Acetes* [*A. carolinae*] sometimes is obtained in gallons at a time, especially in late summer and early fall."

Hansen (1919) records *A. dispar* from a mangrove swamp in the Gulf of Siam, and some specimens of *A. australis* were taken in a shallow muddy bay in Port Jackson (Sydney Harbour), using a bottom dredge.

The following table gives the distribution of all the species that the author has been able to discover in the available literature:

Acetes indicus Milne Edwards.

Ganges Delta (Milne Edwards, 1830); Gulf of Siam (Kemp, 1917); S. end of Durian Strait, East Indies (Boone, 1935).

A. erythraeus Nobili.

Red Sea (Nobili, 1905); W. side of Bay of Bengal, Penang, Gulf of Siam (Kemp, 1917); French Somaliland (Burkenroad, 1934).

A. insularis Kemp.

Rajang R., Sarawak, Borneo (Kemp, 1917).