

A REVISION OF THE GENUS *OVALIPES* RATHBUN, 1898 (CRUSTACEA, DECAPODA, PORTUNIDAE)

By W. STEPHENSON and MAY REES

Department of Zoology, University of Queensland, Brisbane

Plates 35-42. Figures 1-4.

Manuscript received, 15th August, 1966

SUMMARY

Recent workers have recognized five species in the genus *Ovalipes*: *O. ocellatus* (Herbst, 1799), *O. punctatus* (de Haan, 1833), *O. guadulpensis* (Saussure, 1858), *O. iridescens* (Miers, 1886), and *O. molleri* (Ward, 1933). However, five species have been confused under the name of *O. punctatus* and these comprise: *O. punctatus* (de Haan, 1833), *O. trimaculatus* (de Haan, 1833), *O. catharus* (White, 1843), *O. australiensis* n.sp., and *O. elongatus* n.sp. A further new species, *O. georgei*, has appeared in recent collections from Western Australia, and it seems that there may be two forms of *O. guadulpensis*.

The new species are described and the remaining species redescribed. This has necessitated a redescription of the generic features and consideration of the possibility of either dividing the genus into several genera or erecting subgenera. Neither of these possibilities has been followed, but, instead, two groups have been designated (A and B), each with two subgroups. Thus the *O. punctatus* subgroup contains *O. punctatus*, *O. trimaculatus*, *O. catharus*, *O. australiensis*, and *O. elongatus*, and, with the *O. georgei* subgroup comprising only *O. georgei*, makes up Group A. The *O. iridescens* subgroup comprises *O. iridescens* and *O. molleri*, and with the *O. ocellatus* subgroup comprising *O. ocellatus* and *O. guadulpensis* makes up Group B.

The *O. punctatus* subgroup contains shallow-water species primarily from the Indo-West-Pacific area, including *O. punctatus* from Japanese and Chinese waters, and three species from Australasian waters (*O. catharus*, *O. australiensis*, and *O. elongatus*). It also contains one circum-Southern Hemisphere species (*O. trimaculatus*) which has not been recorded from Australasia. The species of the *O. iridescens* subgroup are deeper-water Indo-West-Pacific species, and those of the *O. ocellatus* subgroup are from shallow waters of the Western Atlantic.

Whereas previously only two species were known from Australasian waters, now six are recorded, viz: *O. catharus*, *O. australiensis*, *O. elongatus*, *O. georgei*, *O. iridescens*, and *O. molleri*.

The presence of stridulating structures is a feature of the genus, but it is difficult to understand why each of the subgroups either has a different striated structure or a different structural modification which acts as a plectrum.

I. INTRODUCTION

This investigation commenced with the recognition of a new species of the genus kindly forwarded by Dr R. George, of the Western Australian Museum. Dr George also indicated his belief that specimens in his museum collection previously identified by the senior author as *Ovalipes punctatus* comprised more than one species. Re-examination of his material and specimens borrowed from numerous institutions confirmed that several closely related species had been synonymized by all recent workers, following Rathbun (1930). Sighting of South Atlantic material in American