NOTES AND NEWS

ON THE IDENTITY OF STREPTOCEPHALUS RUBRICAUDATUS
(KLU NZINGER, 1867) (ANOSTRACA)

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In 1867 Klunzinger described as Branchipus rubricaudatus a species of fairy-shrimp which he collected in rainwater reservoirs at Kosseir on the Red Sea coast of Egypt. His description and figures (Klunzinger, 1867) make it clear that his species belongs to the genus Streptocephalus, and in the absence of any type material Brtek (1962) has synonymized it with Streptocephalus torvicornis (Waga, 1842), a somewhat variable species which it resembles.

In the collection of the British Museum (Natural History) I have seen three collections of a Streptocephalus species from northern Africa which is not S. torvicornis and which conforms very closely to Klunzinger's description and figures. I consider this species to be S. rubricaudatus (Klunzinger).

One of the collections in the British Museum (B. M. Accession No. 1903.2.19.1-3 from Omdurman, Sudan) was identified as S. rubricaudatus in 1907 by E. Wolf. The other two collections are from Tchad (B. M. 1959.1.29.2) and from Wady Sikait, Egypt, the latter bearing no accession number. A specimen of the same species is in the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, and was identified as S. torvicornis var. rubricaudatus by Daday in 1909.

The principal differences between the males of S. rubricaudatus and S. torvicornis are illustrated in figs. 1 and 2. The terminology employed is that of Barnard (1929), Bond (1934), and Moore (1966).

It will be noted that the thumb of S. rubricaudatus is very much longer than that of S. torvicornis. In S. rubricaudatus the finger is about 3 times as long as the spur and the thumb about 3 times as long as the finger; in S. torvicornis the finger is only about twice as long as the spur and the thumb only about 1.3 times as long as the finger. Moreover, as Klunzinger states, the thumb is "slender, very long, and bowed (especially distally)" in S. rubricaudatus but not in S. torvicornis.

In both species there is a small conical protuberance arising from the medial surface of the antenna close to the bases of the finger and thumb. In S. torvicornis this process is not more than 2.5 times as long as it is wide at the base, while in S. rubricaudatus it is about 4 times as long as its basal diameter.
There are also consistent differences between the spurs of the two species (the anterior margin convex in *S. rubricaudatus*, straight or slightly concave in *S. torvicornis*), the shape of the teeth on the finger and the shape of the dorsal margin of the thumb. In the material which I have examined, the dorsal swellings on the medial process of the hand of *S. rubricaudatus* are, as Klunzinger illustrates them much larger than those of *S. torvicornis*.

The female, like many others in this genus, does not appear to offer any clear specific characters.

The male, however, may be distinguished from all other species by the possession of three features: a short bilobed frontal process, a long curved spinose thumb, and a short finger resembling the finger of *S. torvicornis*.

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