NOTES AND NEWS

THE OCCURRENCE OF THE NEPHROPID LOBSTER ACANTHACARIS TENUIMANUS BATE, IN THE SOUTHERN SOUTH CHINA SEA

BY

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The nephropid lobster *Acanthacaris tenuimanus*, first described by C. Spence Bate in 1888 under the name of *Phoberus tenuimanus* in the text, and as *Acanthacaris tenuimanus* on the illustrative plates, of the decapod volumes of the Challenger Expedition Reports, has not been subsequently reported from Far Eastern waters. The holotype specimen was obtained from the Banda Sea, south of West Irian, Indonesia, at a depth of 800 fms. Several specimens have been found in the north-west Indian Ocean since Bate’s report, but no further specimens have been obtained from other parts of the Indo-West Pacific region and no specimens were obtained by the Siboga or Snellius Expeditions.

The R.V. “Cape St. Mary” of the Fisheries Research Station, Hong Kong, captured a single specimen of this rare lobster in the course of its surveys of the benthic fauna of the South China Sea. The specimen was collected from a depth of 450-456 fms on a mud substrate. The station details are Cruise 7/64, Stn. 32, T-246, Agassiz trawl, 1915-1945h, 6th November 1964, from 06°00.5’N 110°00.7’E to 06°01.8’N 109°59.4’E. The specimen has been deposited in the collections of the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, catalogue number Crust. D. 29293.

The specimen is a juvenile female with a post-orbital carapace length of 22.2 mm, total body length 80 mm and lacks the right second and fourth pereiopods. The specimen agrees closely with the published descriptions and illustrations, particularly the description of the young given by Alcock (1901). Alcock pointed out that in the juveniles, the development of spines is much less conspicuous than in the adults and that the abdominal segments are almost smooth, as occurs in the present specimen.

The rostrum of the South China Sea specimen extends well beyond the antennular peduncle and reaches approximately to the level of the distal end of the merocerite. There are no teeth present on the dorsal margin but the ventral border bears an acute tooth at half its length, with three smaller teeth distally. A distinct pair of dorso-lateral teeth are present proximally. The antenna consists

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of five segments and not four as reported by Bate. The merocerite is elongated with a well developed distal spine, but the ischiocerite and carpocerite are both short and the ischiocerite bears a strong disto-ventral spine, while the carpocerite is unarmed.

The first pereiopods are subequal and similar, with the palm of the chelae equal to 1.6 of the carapace length. The palm is subcylindrical with feebly