ON THE TAXONOMIC STATUS OF TRAPEZIA AREOLATA DANA AND TRAPEZIA SEPTATA DANA (DECAPODA, BRACHYURA)

BY

B. GALIL and the late CH. LEWINSOHN
American Museum of Natural History, New York, U.S.A.

INTRODUCTION

Trapezia areolata and Trapezia septata were described by Dana (1852a, b). The characterizations were rather brief and, unfortunately, the specimens themselves were lost. The distinctions between those species were ignored by subsequent authors and all honeycomb-patterned crabs were identified as T. areolata. We reestablish the identities and supply descriptions for both taxa.

Trapezia areolata Dana, 1852 (figs. 1, 3, 4)

Trapezia areolata Dana, 1852a: 83; Dana, 1852b: 259; Dana, 1855: 6, pl. 15 fig. 8; Cano, 1888: 172; Ortmann, 1893: 485 (part); Forest & Guinot, 1962: 135, fig. 133.

Trapezia ferruginea areolata Ortmann, 1897: 206 (part).


Tahiti, 1 ♂ 1 ♀ (SMF 4053, ex. Mus. Godeffroy).

The material is deposited in the Natur-Museum Senckenberg, Frankfurt (SMF) and the U.S. National Museum, Washington (USNM).

Description. — Carapace trapezoid, smooth, moderately convex, its regions undefined. Frontal border broad, equal to over half the greatest width of carapace (fig. 1). Anterolateral borders of carapace much shorter than posterolateral borders, parallel with each other. Posterolateral margins markedly convergent backwards from a notch-like, rudimentary lateral epibranchial tooth. A lateral spine found in the younger specimens but entirely wanting in the larger specimens.

Submedian lobes in interorbital frontal margin minute, triangular. Outer lobes flattened, their edge finely denticulate. Superior inner orbital angle scarcely rounded, separated from outer lobes by a shallow notch. Orbits large, quadrate, cut out of anterolateral angles of carapace. Inferior inner orbital tooth prominent, incurved and blunt. Postorbital teeth unobtrusive. Merus of outer maxilliped trapezoid. Outer distal angle produced, inner angle obliquely truncate, with a protruding lip (fig. 3).
Fig. 1. *Trapezia areolata* Dana, ♂. 2. *Trapezia septata* Dana, ♂.