James Dwight Dana (1813-1895) was the mineralogist and geologist on board the United States Exploring Expedition, which under the command of Captain Charles Wilkes explored the Pacific Ocean from 1838 to 1842. Aside from publishing on the geology and the zoophytes collected during the Expedition, he also published a fundamental work on the Crustacea between the years 1852 and 1855 (see Pirsson, 1919). However, as has been demonstrated in multiple publications (e.g., Low & Clark, 2010; Schweitzer et al., 2010), Dana had begun publishing on the Crustacea of the “Exploring Expedition” long before 1852. These were chiefly published in the “Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia” (i.e., Dana, 1852a) and the “American Journal of Science and Arts” (i.e., Dana, 1852b), those two papers being of prime interest to caridean systematics and taxonomy. The “Proceedings” paper (Dana, 1852a) appeared in the “American Journal of Science and Arts” (Dana, 1852b) in a slightly modified form with the inclusion of an earlier work on the Paguridea collected during the Expedition, as well as by the absence of diagnoses for the various species described in the “Proceedings” (Dana, 1852a). Fuller descriptions of the species and higher taxa appear in the formal report of the “Expedition”, viz., Dana (1852c), with illustrations finally appearing in the “Atlas” (Dana, 1855).

In terms of the families, genera and species described in these works, there exists no ambiguity, as all can be dated to Dana (1852a), with additional caridean taxa in Dana (1852c), see De Grave & Fransen (2011) for a listing. However, a discrepancy exists in the literature regarding the infraorder Caridea Dana, 1852, itself.

Traditionally, this has been attributed to Dana (1852c), where the term Caridea appears to be used for the first time in its modern composition, see Holthuis (1993).
for a discussion. This usage has been followed in recent, major compilations of the higher classification of Decapoda (cf. De Grave et al., 2009), as well an exhaustive compilation of fossil Decapoda (cf. Schweitzer et al., 2010) and a global checklist of caridean taxa (De Grave & Fransen, 2011). However, some recent authors (e.g., Richard & Clark, 2009, 2010) refer to Dana (1852a) in this respect, whilst Martin & Davis (2001) attribute the concept to Dana (1852d). The latter is evidently in error, as this publication deals with Isopoda and Amphipoda, and is not considered further here.

Herein we scrutinize the classification used in Dana (1852a, b, c) as well as their publication dates and provide evidence that the concept can be correctly attributed to Dana (1852b). It should be noted that earlier references can be found to Carides or Caridea, going back to Latreille (1817) who used “Salicoques-Carides” for a more systematically inclusive grouping of various shrimp and other decapod taxa (Holthuis, 1993). As the “International Code of Zoological Nomenclature” (hereafter “the Code”, ICZN, 1999) does not regulate the authorship of taxa above the family-group rank, we herein adhere to the notion of attributing authorship to the first author who employs the concept as is currently understood, and do not advocate attributing authorship to the author who was merely the first to use the name in a non-vernacular, latinized fashion, i.e., Latreille (1817), see Martin & Davis (2001) for a discussion on this issue.

Dana (1852a) was published before 14 April 1852, when receipt of a copy was acknowledged by the Smithsonian Institute (see Nolan, 1913: xi). Dana (1852b) was published before 16 July 1852, when its accession into the library of the American Philosophical Society was acknowledged (see Anonymous, 1852a: 278). The date of publication of Part 1 of the Crustacea of the “United States Exploring Expedition” (i.e., Dana, 1852c) has been a matter of some debate (e.g., Haskell, 1942; Low & Clark, 2010). The most accurate date of publication for Dana (1852c) that has been found is in Anonymous (1853: 466) who stated: “Crustacea of the U.S. Exploring Expedition under Capt. C. Wilkes; by James D. Dana. 4to. Part I, including 680 pages, was published December last. Part II, the conclusion of the work, embracing 940 pages, will appear the coming month. The plates will be longer delayed; they will make a large folio volume of 96 plates, partly coloured […]”. Haskell (1942: 78-81) citing archival sources from various institutions in the United States concluded that the official issue of this work was on 4 February 1853, but also acknowledged that unofficial editions were in circulation in 1852. Additional evidence that Dana (1852c) at the earliest appeared only very late in the year 1852 is to be found in the correspondence of a certain naturalist living in Down House, who on 25th November 1852 wrote to Dana: “I congratulate you on the progress of your Herculean labours on the Crustacea: I have a neighbour, who is very anxious to see this work […]” (Darwin,