

PROCEEDINGS
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DESCRIPTION OF A NEW PARASITIC ISOPOD OF THE
GENUS *ÆGA* FROM THE SOUTHERN COAST OF THE
UNITED STATES.*

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Two specimens of a species of *Æga*, heretofore undescribed, were obtained by the U. S. Fish Commission steamer 'Albatross' during its cruises in 1885 and 1886—one off Little Bahama Bank and the other between the delta of the Mississippi and Cedar Keys, Florida. They present no unusual characters, but differ from any of the known species of *Æga*.

Æga ecarinata sp. nov.

Body elongate and narrow. Length more than three times greater than breadth. Surface punctate. Frontal margin of head bisinuated, the acumen separating the first pair of antennæ. Eyes large and oblong and situated at a small distance apart. First pair of antennæ extending almost to the flagellum of the second pair of antennæ; the first two joints of peduncle very broad; second joint extending anteriorly over the third joint, reaching almost to the extremity of that joint; third joint two-thirds narrower than first and second; the flagellum containing nine articles. Second pair of antennæ extending to the middle of the first thoracic segment; flagellum containing ten articles.

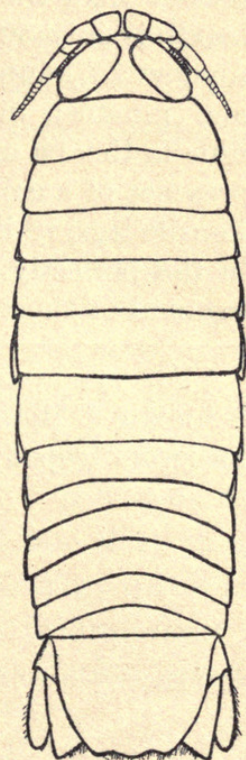


FIG. 1.—*Æga ecarinata*
($\times 2\frac{5}{7}$).

Epimera of all the thoracic segments narrow, the first two being rounded, the other four more acute at their extremities. First two pairs of prehensile legs rather stout; third

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pair less so, and the propodus of this pair is furnished with a large cultri-form process. Five spines are present on the merus of all three pairs. Gressorial legs slender and sparsely spinulose.



FIG. 2.—*Æga ecarinata*
($\times 5\frac{3}{4}$).

- a. Leg of 1st pair.
- b. Leg of 3d pair.
- c. Leg of 7th pair.

All the abdominal segments are visible in a dorsal view. Terminal segment broad and posteriorly bisinuated, forming three teeth with rounded extremities; its surface entirely smooth.

Outer branch of uropods narrower and somewhat shorter than the inner branch; its extremity is rounded. Inner branch obliquely truncate and crenulate on posterior margin. Uropods and terminal abdominal segment all fringed with a few hairs.

Two individuals of this species were found—one between the delta of the Mississippi and Cedar Keys, Florida, Station 2403, depth 88 fathoms; the other, the type (No. 21001, U. S. Nat. Mus.), off Little Bahama Bank, Station 2655, depth 338 fathoms.

This species is closely related to *A. tridens** Leach, but presents many specific differences: in the relative

length and breadth of the body, the length being more than three times greater than the breadth in *A. ecarinata*, while in *A. tridens* Leach the length is only two and one-half times greater than the breadth; in the number of joints in the 1st and 2d pairs of antennæ, ten in the 1st pair and nineteen in the 2d pair being characteristic of *A. tridens* Leach, nine in the 1st and ten in the 2d pair being true of our species; in the presence of a cultri-form process on the propodus of the third pair of prehensile legs, which process is entirely wanting in *A. tridens* Leach; and in the perfectly smooth surface in the present species of the terminal segment of the abdomen, which in the other species is tricarinated.

* For synonymy, see Naturhistorisk Tidsskrift, vol. XII, 1879-'80, Schiøedte & Meinert, 'Symbolæ ad Monographium Cymothoarum, Crustaceorum Isopodum Familiæ,' p. 340-341.



Richardson, Harriet. 1898. "Description of a new parasitic Isopod of the genus *Aega* from the southern coast of the United States." *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 12, 39–40.

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