

poind in shape. These animals are very widely distributed, and often occur in great numbers, but it seems doubtful whether all those hitherto observed may not fairly be referred to one species. The forms assigned by Dana to three distinct species are very probably founded upon various stages of development of one only.

*Oncaea obtusa*, Dana (Pl. LI. figs. 1-11).

*Anturia obtusa*, Dana, Crust. U. S. Expl. Exped. (1852), p. 1230, pl. lxxxvi. figs. 13, *a-c*.

„ *mediterranea*(?), Claus, Die frei lebenden Copepoden (1863), p. 159, pl. xxx. figs. 1-7.

*Oncaea venusta* (?), Philippi, Wiegmann's Archiv, 1843, pl. iii. fig. 2.

„ *pyriformis*, Lubbock, On some Oceanic Entomostraca, &c., Trans. Linn. Soc., vol. xxiii. p. 183, pl. xxix. figs. 24, 25.

Length, 1-20th of an inch (1.3 mm.). Body constricted at the junction of the thorax and abdomen; conical lenses inconspicuous. Anterior antennæ (fig. 4) six-jointed, nearly equally thick throughout, not half as long as the first body-segment; third joint much the longest, and exceeding in length the last three joints; last joint of the posterior antennæ (fig. 5) small and armed with two fascicles of curved setæ; basal joint with one apical seta. Mouth-organs minute; mandibles (fig. 6, *a*) armed at the apex with several lacinated teeth; maxilla (fig. 6, *b*) with six or seven slender spine-like setæ; anterior foot-jaws (fig. 7) divided into two stout terminal spine-like processes, which are profusely pectinated on the inner margin, also one slender naked seta; posterior foot-jaw forming a strongly clawed prehensile hand, which in the *female* (fig. 8) is elongated, tapering, and bears on the inner margin two stout setæ and a series of fine short hairs; terminal claw stout, falciform; in the *male* (fig. 9) the hand is broadly ovate, destitute of long marginal setæ, but provided with a continuous series of fine hairs, terminal claw long and rather slender. The swimming feet (figs. 10, 11) have their external and internal branches of nearly equal length, the first two joints being in all cases much the shortest; marginal spines long, dagger-shaped, with finely serrated edges. Fifth pair of feet extremely small, consisting of a minute tubercle armed with one or two small apical setæ. First joint of the abdomen in both sexes very large, much longer than all the rest of the abdominal segments put together, and in the *male* having the posterior angles acutely produced; second, third, and fourth segments of the *male* extremely short; caudal stylets in both sexes about thrice as long as broad, each armed with three subequal terminal setæ, the longest of which is about half as long as the abdomen, one smaller terminal and one lateral seta. Ovisacs two, borne closely adpressed to the back of the abdomen, and reaching, when the ova are mature, nearly to its extremity.

*Habitat*.—From the following list of localities it will be seen that *Oncaea obtusa* may fairly be called a cosmopolitan species—excepting, perhaps, from this statement the colder waters of the extreme north and south temperate zones. The Mediterranean is the most northerly region in which it has yet been observed, and indeed had it extended into the