Family TANAIDÆ.

Tanais, Milne-Edwards.

Tanais, Milne-Edwards, Résumé d. Ent., p. 182, 1829.

Anisocheirus, Westwood, Ann. d. Sci. Nat., t. xxvii., 1832.

Zeuxo, Templeton, Trans. Entom. Soc. Lond., vol. i. p. 203, 1836.

Crossurus, H. Rathke, Nova Acta Acad. Cæs. Leop.-Carol. Nat. Cur., vol. xx. p. 35, 1843.

Two different species were obtained by the Challenger that are referable to the genus Tanais, as redefined by Sars; one of these was noticed by the late Dr. v. Willemoes-Suhm for the peculiarity that the eggs are carried by the female in two sacs attached to the bases of the last thoracic limbs, much after the fashion of a Copepod; the ovigerous lamellæ of the anterior thoracic segments remain undeveloped. This particular species has been lately described by Dr. Studer and named Tanais willemoesii. A second species of the genus was dredged, also in shallow water, off Prince Edward Island.

Tanais willemoesii, Studer.

Tanais sp., Suhm, Proc. Roy. Soc. Lond., vol. xxiv. p. 590.

Tanais willemoesii, Studer, Isopoden gesammelt, etc., Abhandl. d. k. Akad. d. Wiss. Berlin, 1883, p. 24 (of Memoir).

A very large number of specimens of this species were dredged off Kerguelen Island in shallow water; as, however, the species has been recently carefully described by Studer, it is hardly worth while to recapitulate his description here. This is the species to which the late Dr. v. Willemoes-Suhm referred in his Preliminary Report in the following words:—

"A Tanais having a length of about 17 millims is very common, and though not deviating by any means from the typical species of the genus, it has a peculiarity connected with its propagation; for the females, instead of having breeding-lamellæ, as the other species of the genus have, carry their eggs, like Copepods, in small cutaneous sacs attached to the genital opening at the base of the fifth pair of pereiopods. These sacs extend as the development goes on, and attain a diameter of 3-4 millims. Professor Wyville Thomson having discovered among the echinoderms of Kerguelen Land many forms which do not undergo any metamorphosis, but develop in pouches of their parents, this peculiarity in Tanais deserves to be noted, not exactly as comparable to those facts, but as an anomaly in the group to which the animal belongs."

Among the individuals collected by the Challenger there were a large number of females, some with fully developed egg-bags filled with eggs, and others in which these structures were still rudimentary; in no case, however, were there any observable traces of ovigerous lamellæ on any segments other than the fourth.

Station 149k, off Christmas Harbour, Kerguelen, January 29, 1874; lat. 48° 40′ S., long. 69° 6′ E.; depth, 45 fathoms; volcanic mud.