

Scyra, Dana.

Scyra, Dana, Amer. Journ. Sci. and Arts, ser. 2, vol. xi. p. 269, 1851; Crust. in. U.S. Explor. Exped., vol. xiii. (i), p. 80, 1852.

„ Miers, Journ. Linn. Soc. Lond. (Zool.), vol. xiv. p. 663, 1879.

The carapace is somewhat depressed, tuberculated, but not spinose on the dorsal surface, and with well-developed lateral epibranchial and præocular spines. The rostral spines (in the two species I have examined), are vertically compressed and laterally dilated at base, acute at the distal extremity. The orbits are small, with a lateral aspect, with a narrow hiatus or a nearly closed fissure in the upper margin, and a wider hiatus below. The post-abdomen, in the male, is distinctly seven-jointed. The eyes are very small and retractile. The basal antennal joint is moderately dilated, with a very small spine or tooth at the antero-external angle; the two following joints are slightly dilated and compressed, and these, with the flagellum, are scarcely, if at all, concealed by the spines of the rostrum. The merus of the exterior maxillipedes is distally truncated, with the antero-internal angle not produced, and the antero-internal angle notched. The chelipedes (in the adult male) are well-developed, with the palm slightly compressed and carinated above, and the fingers acute, with scarcely any basal intermarginal hiatus. The ambulatory legs are of moderate length, the joints sub-cylindrical, without spines; the first pair does not much exceed the rest in length; the dactyli are short, acute.

The examination of a larger series of specimens has shown that the fissure in the upper margin of the orbit is sometimes open, and constitutes a distinct hiatus in this genus, which will, therefore, be better placed among the *Maia*næ, near *Hyastenus*, than with the *Pericera*næ, where I formerly classed it. In the form of the carapace, orbits, rostrum and antennæ it also presents obvious affinities with the genus *Hyas* and its allies.

Two well-marked species of this genus have been described, *Scyra acutifrons*, Dana, from the coasts of Oregon, California, British Columbia, and Vancouver Island,¹ and *Scyra compressipes*, Stimpson, from Japan (6 to 50 fathoms).

Scyra umbonata, Stimpson,² from the Gulf of Florida (143 fathoms), cannot be included in this genus, since it differs in the cylindrical spines of the rostrum and non-dilated mobile joints of the antennæ, and the merus of the exterior maxillipedes is not notched at the antero-internal angle. In the flattened protuberances of the carapace and in other characters this form somewhat resembles the Oriental *Oxypleurodon stimpsonii* (Miers).

¹ Specimens from the two last mentioned localities are in the collection of the British Museum.

² *Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool.*, vol. ii. p. 115, 1870.