Genus *Glaucothoë*, H. Milne-Edwards.

Glaucothoë, Milne-Edwards, Ann. d. Sci. Nat., sér. 1e, t. xix. p. 334, 1830 ; Hist. Nat. des Crust., t. ii. p. 306, 1837 ; in Cuvier, Règne Anim., Crust., éd. 3e, pl. xliii. fig. 2, no date.
? Prophylax, Latreille, in Cuvier, Règne Anim., éd. 2e, p. 78, 1829.

Carapace submembranous, with or without a median rostral projection. Ocular peduncles well-developed; ophthalmic scales absent. Chelipedes subequal or unequal, the fingers moving in a vertical plane; penultimate pair of legs subchelate, the ultimate pair chelate. Abdomen composed of seven distinct segments (including the telson), with submembranous terga, the second to the sixth segments inclusive each provided with a pair of biramous appendages (one of the rami being rudimentary), the last pair forming with the telson a symmetrical swimming fin.

Although such eminent authorities as Milne-Edwards and Dana placed *Glaucothoë* in the Thalassinidæ among the Macrura, there can now be no doubt, since the discovery of allied forms, that the general characters of this interesting and little-known genus justify its position in the family Paguridæ. The form of the abdomen is really its only essentially Macruran character, and this part more than any other is subject to modification in the Paguridæ; indeed the abdomen is scarcely less developed in *Cancellus*, a genus the position of which in the Paguridæ has never been questioned. It is exceedingly probable that we have in *Glaucothoë* and allied forms, Pagurids of a very primitive type, still retaining many of the ancestral Thalassinid characters. Mr. Spence Bate, in a paper[1] written many years ago, maintains that *Glaucothoë* is merely an immature stage of *Pagurus* (or *Eupagurus?*), and he supports this theory by the description and figures of a larval Crustacean, taken on the surface off the south coast of England; it seems, however, that these are insufficient to prove that his specimen belonged to this genus, and he adduces no evidence to show that it subsequently becomes transformed into a soft-tailed Pagurid. The theory that ordinary Pagurids pass through a *Glaucothoë*-stage prior to taking possession of a shell, and even up to their attaining some size, is rendered improbable by the fact that specimens of *Glaucothoë* are extremely rare, while Hermits of very small size are frequently met with, in which the abdomen agrees with that of the adult in being soft and imperfectly segmented. The Challenger species described below has all the appearance of an adult animal, and, judging from the nature of its appendages, must have lived on the bottom. The previously known species of *Glaucothoë* are two in number, viz. *Glaucothoë peronii*, Milne-Edwards, which probably came from the Asiatic seas, and *Glaucothoë rostrata*, Miers, taken by the "Alert" off Madeira, at a depth of 15 to 50 fathoms. The genus *Prophylax*, Latreille, of which the type specimen has apparently been lost, is very closely allied to and perhaps identical with *Glaucothoë*; the latter name

[1] *Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist.*, ser. 4, vol. ii. p. 116, pl. ix., 1868.