

2.1.2 FAMILY NEPHROPIDAE Dana, 1852

NEPH

Nephropinae Dana, 1852, Proceedings Academy Natural Sciences. Philadelphia, 6: 15.

Synonyms : Homaridae Huxley, 1879. The grammatically incorrect spelling Nephropsidae has frequently been used for the present family name.

The family Nephropidae is divided into three subfamilies: Neophoberinae, Nephropinae and Thymopinae. A key to these subfamilies is provided on pages 20 and 21.

SUBFAMILY NEOPHOBERINAE Glaessner, 1969

Neophoberinae Glaessner, 1969, in R.C. Moore, Treatise of Invertebrate Paleontology, R(2):459.

Synonyms : Phoberinae Mertin, 1941.

The subfamily contains only a single genus.

***Acanthacaris* Bate, 1888**

NEPH Acant

Acanthacaris Bate, 1888, Report VoyaaeChallenger.Zool. 24:171,929,pl.21.Genderfeminine.

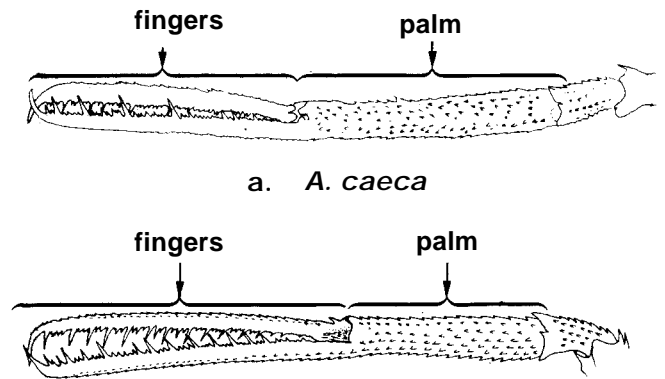
Type Species: by monotypy: *Acanthacaris tenuimana* Bate, 1888.

Synonyms : Phoberus A. Milne Edwards, 1881, Annales Sciences Naturelles. Paris. (Zool.), (6)1 1(4): 1 (not *Phoberus* MacLeay, 1818); type species, by monotypy: *Phoberus caecus* A. Milne Edwards, 1881; gender masculine.

Neophoberus Glaessner, 1969, in R.C. Moore, Treatise of Invertebrate Paleontology, R(2):460, replacement name for *Phoberus* A. Milne Edwards, 1881; gender masculine.

Key to Species:

- 1a. Fingers of first cheliped about as long as palm (Fig. 39a).Atlantic ***A. caeca*** (Fig. 40)
- 1b. Fingers of first cheliped distinctly longer than palm (Fig. 39b). Indo-West Pacific ***A. tenuimana*** (Fig. 42)



b. *A. tenuimana* Fig. 39

***Acanthacaris caeca* A. Milne Edwards, 1881**

Fig. 40

NEPH Acant 1

Phoberus caecus A. Milne Edwards, 1881, Annales Sciences Naturelles , Paris,(Zool.), (6)1 1(4):1.

Synonyms : *Neophoberus caecus* - Glaessner, 1969.

FAO Names : **En** - Atlantic deep-sea lobster; **Fr** - Langoustine arganelle; **Sp** - Cigala de fondo.

Type : Type locality: "Blake" Station 264, off Grenada, West Indies, 12°03'15"N 61°48'30"W, 761 m deep, bottom grey ooze. Holotype in MCZ.

Geographical Distribution : Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea, Straits of Florida (Fig. 41).

Habitat and Biology : A deepsea species from 293 to 878 m depth (mostly between 550 and 825 m). Lives on soft mud bottoms in burrows.

Size : Maximum total length 40 cm; carapace length 2 to 17 cm.

Interest to Fisheries : Not actually fished for at present, Exploratory deep-sea trawling showed the species to be present in quantities that might be of commercial interest; also interesting because of its relatively large size.

Local Names: USA: Blind deep sea lobster (Florida).

literature : Holthuis, 1974:741, fig. 4-8; Fischer (ed.), 1978:vol.6.

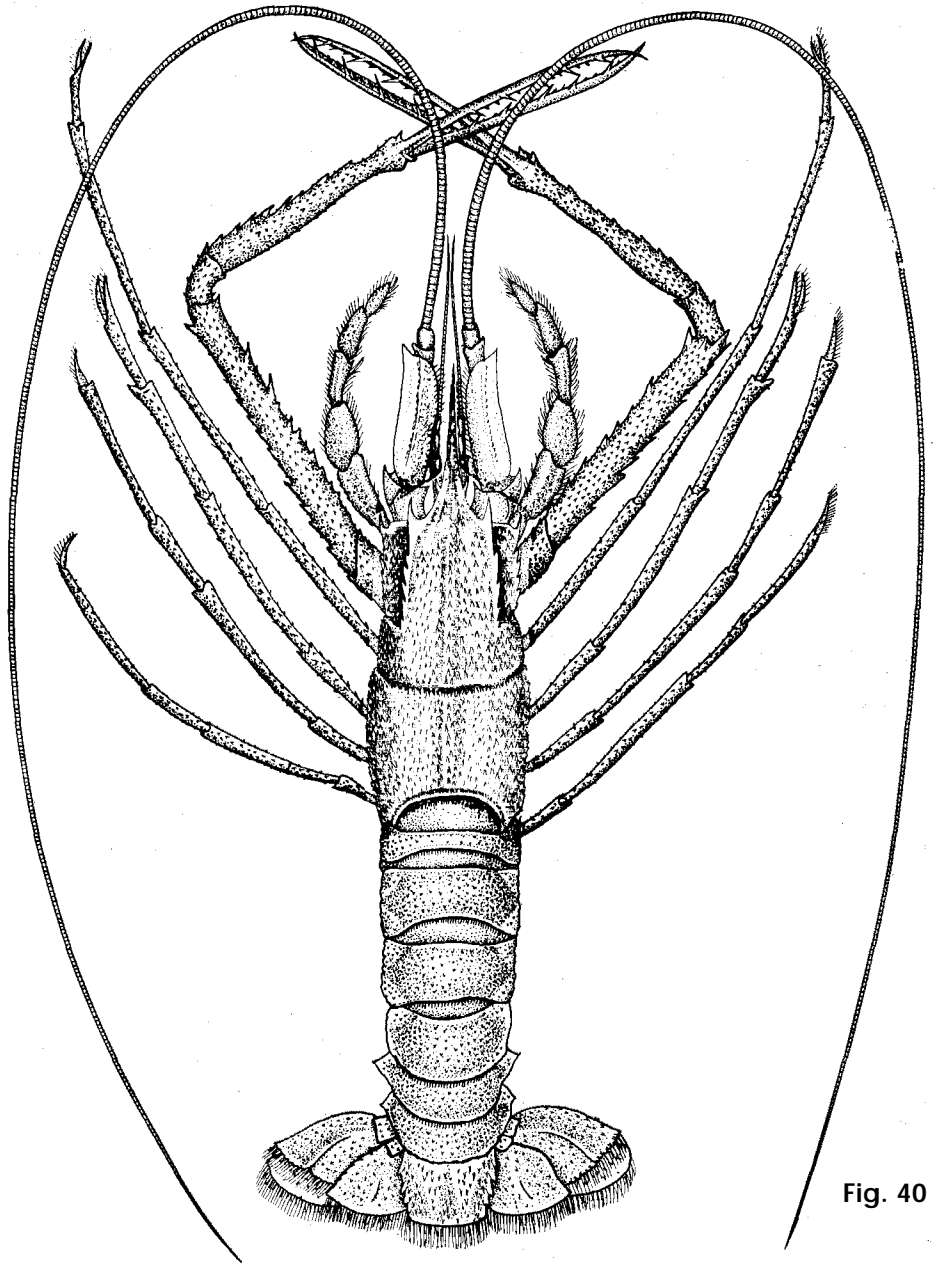


Fig. 40

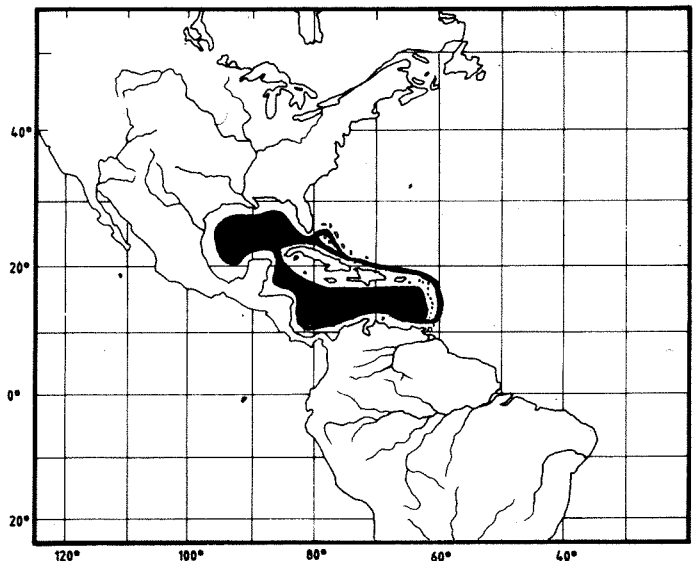


Fig. 41

***Acanthacaris tenuimana* Bate, 1888**

Acanthacaris tenuimana, Bate, 1888, Report Voyage Challenger, Zool.,24:171,929,pl. 21.

Synonyms : *Phoberus tenuimanus* Bate, 1888; *Phoberus caecus sublevis* Wood-Mason & Alcock, 1891; *Acanthacaris opipara* Burukovsky & Musy, 1976; *Phoberus brevirostris* Thung & Wang, 1985.

FAO Names : En - Prickly deep-sea lobster; Fr - Langoustine spinuleuse; Sp - Cigala raspa.

Type : Type locality of *Acanthacaris tenuimana*: "Challenger" Station 191, "lat. 5°41'S., long. 134°4'30" E., south of New Guinea; depth, 800 fathoms [= 1463 m]; bottom, green mud". Holotype in BM, no. 88.22 (in alcohol, condition fair).

Type locality of *Phoberus caecus sublevis*: "Investigator" "Station 105, 740 fathoms" (= "Laccadive Sea, off Goa coast, lat. 15°02'N, long. 72°34'E., 740 fms [= 1353 m]. Grey ooze, coral mud, and 12.5 per cent Foraminifera"). Holotype in ZSI, preserved in alcohol, condition poor.

Type locality of *Acanthacaris opipara*: "South-west part of the Indian Ocean" near "Durban; 29°57'6"-29°52'5"S., 31°46'2"-31°52'5"E, depth 830-850 m". Depository of holotype unknown.

Type locality of *Phoberus brevirostris*: " 29°00'-30' N, 127°00'-30'E, 300-900 m deep, East China Sea". Holotype male (no. 81015) and 2 paratype males (nos. 81016 and 81006) in Donghai Fisheries Research Institute, Shanghai, and Biological Department of Hangzhou University, Hangzhou, China.

Geographical Distribution : Indo-West Pacific area (Natal, Mozambique, Madagascar, Laccadive Islands, Japan, Philippines, South China Sea, Indonesia, New Caledonia) (Fig 43)

Habitat and Biology : Deep sea, from 600 to 1670 m. Muddy bottom.

Size : Maximum known total length 40 cm, carapace length 2-21 cm; ovigerous females, cl. 1 1-19cm.

Interest to Fisheries : So far none. The species is taken incidentally in trawls, but so far too rarely and in too small quantities to be of commercial interest. The large size of the specimens might make fishing economically attractive, once the appropriate gear and proper localities where sufficient quantities occur have been found.

Local Names : MOZAMBIQUE: Lagosti m espinoso.

Literature : Fischer & Bianchi (eds), 1984:vol: 5; Macpherson, 1990:293.

Fig. 42

NEPH Acant 1

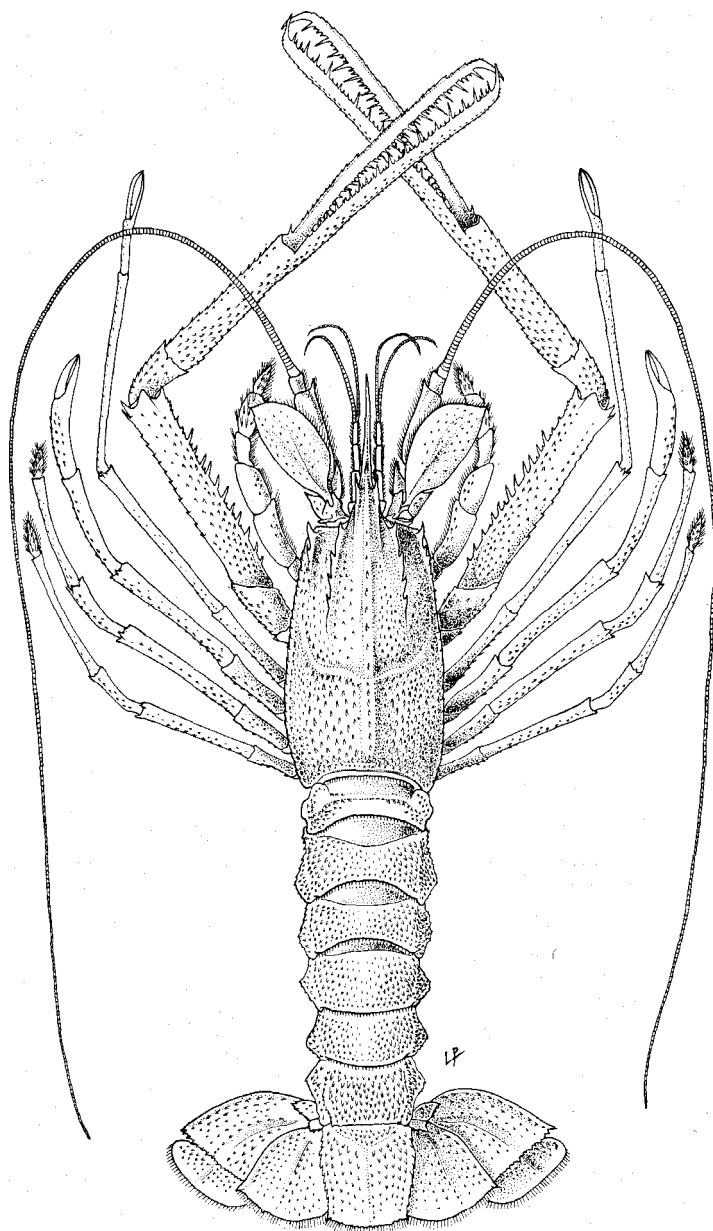


Fig. 42

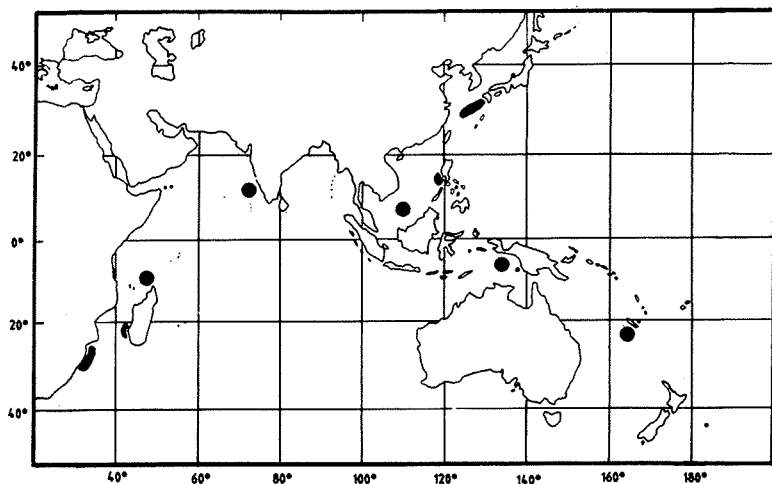


Fig. 43