

SANQUERUS, A REPLACEMENT NAME
FOR *POSIDON* HERKLOTS, 1851
(CRUSTACEA, DECAPODA, PORTUNIDAE)

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Abstract. — *Sanquerus* is proposed as a replacement name for the preoccupied portunid genus *Posidon* Herklots, 1851, and the name is removed from the synonymy of *Portunus* Weber, 1795. *Sanquerus* is a monotypic genus containing only the West African *Sanquerus validus* (Herklots, 1851).

Manning & Holthuis (1981:104, 105) pointed out that the West African "*Portunus validus* shows little similarity to any of the many Indo-West Pacific species of the genus, and it shows little affinity with any of the American species of the genus. . . ." They also enumerated differences between *Portunus validus* and *Portunus pelagicus* (Linnaeus, 1758), the type species of *Portunus*. I take this opportunity to remove *Posidon* from the synonymy of *Portunus* and to propose a replacement name for it.

Sanquerus, new name
Figs. 1-2

Posidon Herklots, 1851:3. [Invalid junior homonym of *Posidon* Illiger, 1801 (Crustacea). Type species: *Portunus (Posidon) validus* Herklots, 1851, by monotypy. Gender masculine.]

Diagnosis. — Size very large, carapace widths in adults exceeding 20 centimeters. Carapace wide, breadth about two times

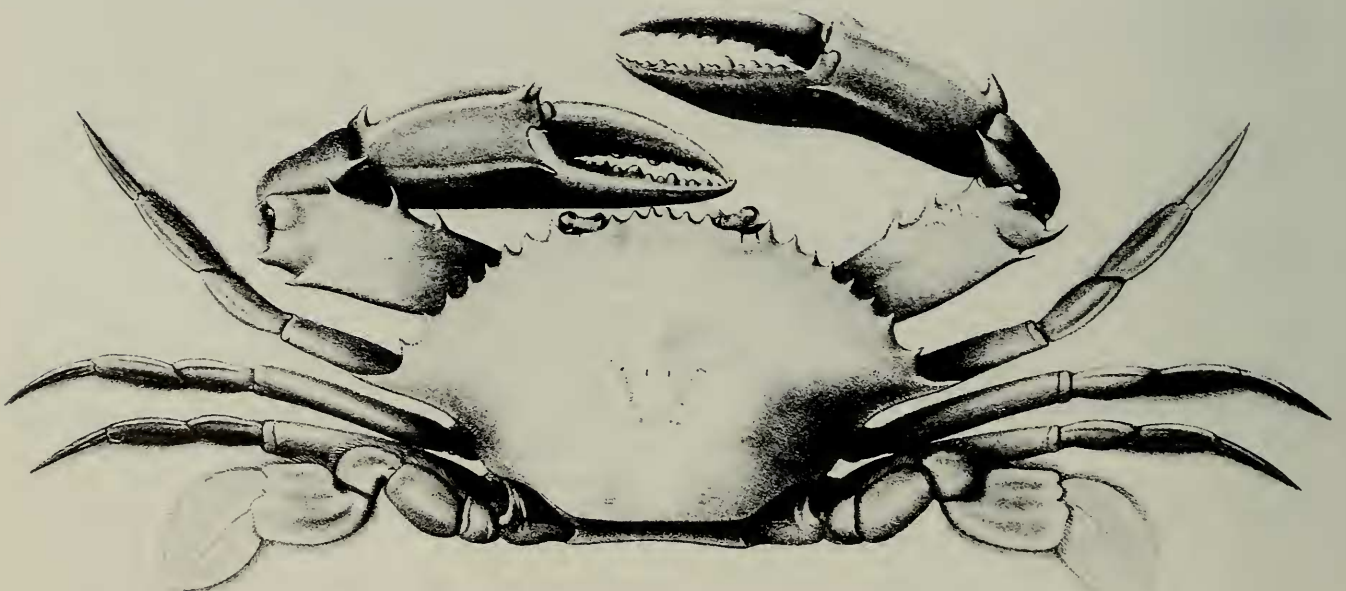


Fig. 1. *Sanquerus validus* (Herklots) (from Milne Edwards 1861, pl. 29, fig. 1).

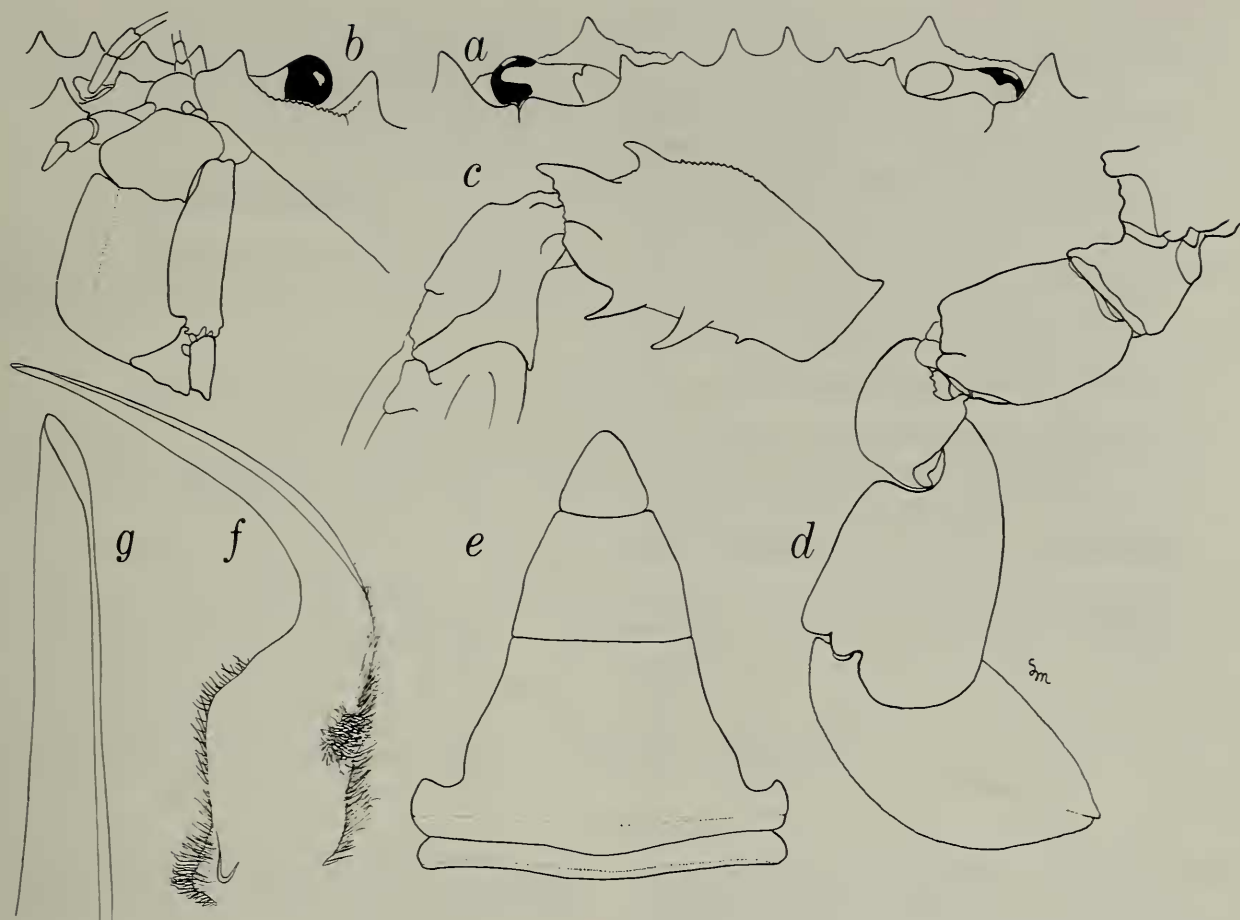


Fig. 2. *Sanquerus validus* (Herklots). a, front; b, third maxilliped; c, merus and carpus of cheliped; d, fifth leg; e, abdomen; f, gonopod; g, apex of gonopod. (a, b, d–g from male, 151 mm wide, Nigeria, USNM 121034; c from male, 61 mm wide, Liberia, USNM 97864) (c, f, g from Manning & Holthuis 1981).

length. Surface of carapace minutely tuberculate, appearing smooth to the naked eye, evenly convex, lacking distinct grooves or ridges, except for ridge extending across posterior margin between bases of last walking legs; posterolateral angles of carapace unarmed; conspicuous white spot present posterolaterally on each side. Front with three pairs of spiniform teeth, including inner orbitals, median pair largest. Interantennular projection low, not visible in dorsal view. Anterolateral margin of carapace with nine spiniform teeth, lateralmost largest. Antenna with free access to orbit. Palate with longitudinal ridge. Merus of third maxilliped lacking produced anterior lobe. Cheliped robust; merus with two posterior spines, one subdistal, three inner spines, and one smaller ventral spine distally; carpus with inner and outer spine; palm prismatic and costate, with proximal spine at articulation

with wrist, distal dorsal spine, and smaller distal spine on inner carina. Merus of fifth leg with posterodistal margin unarmed, rounded; swimming paddle notched distally. Abdomen of male triangular, 5-segmented, third to fifth segments fused; terminal segment longer than broad. Male pleopod stout, curved laterally, unarmed.

Etymology.—This name is in recognition of the enormous contribution made to the knowledge of the West African fauna by Mr. Robert Sanquer of Vouhé, France, former Trawling Master for the Guinean Trawling Survey. The gender is masculine.

Remarks.—*Sanquerus* is a very distinctive portunid, easily distinguished from all known portunid genera by the smooth, unornamented carapace in combination with the prismatic and costate chelae. It keys to *Portunus* in Rathbun (1930:13), Crosnier (1962:34), Garth & Stephenson (1966:10),

and to the couplet containing *Portunus* and *Scylla* in Stephenson (1972:8).

Sanquerus validus keys to *Portunus pelagicus* in Stephenson & Campbell (1959:90) and to the couplet containing *P. pelagicus* in Crosnier (1962:42). It keys to *Portunus convexus* de Haan, 1833 in Stephenson (1972:13) because of the paired white spots on the carapace, but that species has distinct ornamentation on the carapace and only one posterior spine on the merus of the cheliped. On morphological grounds it keys to the couplet containing *Portunus pelagicus* in Stephenson (1972:15). It differs from *Portunus pelagicus* in numerous features, some of which were mentioned by Manning & Holthuis (1981:105): the carapace lacks surface sculpture and is minutely rather than distinctly tuberculate; the submedian frontal teeth are the largest of the frontal teeth; the interantennular spine is not visible in dorsal view; the third maxilliped extends far less forward; the cheliped is more massive, and the merus is ornamented with two strong posterior spines; the abdomen of the male is broader; and the gonopod is much stouter. As in *P. pelagicus*, the dactylus of the fifth leg is notched distally, not produced into a spine, and the anterior eight anterolateral teeth of the carapace are not alternately large and small.

Sanquerus resembles the Indo-West Pacific genus *Scylla* de Haan, 1833 in having a relatively smooth carapace, but differs from *Scylla* in having the chelae prismatic and costate; in *Scylla* the chelae are robust and smooth (Stephenson & Campbell 1960:111; Stephenson 1972:8, 44).

In frontal view, the carapace of *Sanquerus* shows very low paired swollen prominences on the protogastric, mesogastric, and mesobranchial regions, and distinct but small paired branchial lobes.

Sanquerus validus is a commercial species occurring off the West African coast, from

Senegal to Angola. References to the species may be found in Monod (1956:196) and Manning & Holthuis (1981:103).

Acknowledgments

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