

Pl. 4a-b; *Ashtoret miersii* (Henderson, 1887) NHM 1892.7.15.347-356; a = dorsal view, b = left chela.

of the genus, in which the hand of the male is armed with a ridge of tubercles or spines, on the outer surface and parallel to the lower border."

Type locality.— Madras, India (Henderson, 1887: 68).

Distribution.— India, Ceylon, Japan.

Ashtoret obtusifrons (Miers, 1877) comb. nov.
(fig. 3a-b, pl. 5a-b)

Matuta obtusifrons Miers, 1877: 247, pl. 40, figs 8,9; 1880: 316.

Material.— Fiji Is. Nagu, det. E.J. Miers, syntype, now lectotype, ♂ 48 mm, ♀ syntype, now paralectotype (NHM 1856.105). Indonesia. Bali, purch. E. Gerrard, ♀ 42 mm (NHM 1880.6). New Hebrides. Malekula, coll. W.W. Perry, det. E.J. Miers, ♂ 49 mm, syntype, now paralectotype (NHM 1876.14).

Description.— Surface of carapace minutely granulate, coarser granules laterally and around six dorsal tubercles, largest cluster surrounding mesogastric tubercle. Front with arcuate lobes laterally and an obtuse rostrum medially. Exognath and ischium of third maxilliped tuberculate.

Anterolateral margins of carapace crenulate with five small tubercles followed by three large triangular, teeth-like, tubercles.

Lateral spine 0.25 carapace width. Posterolateral margin oblique, with granulate carina extending to base of lateral spine. Mid posterolateral tubercle prominent.

Upper external surface of palm with two rows of granulate low tubercles, proximal-most in lower row largest. Mid palm a five-toothed ridge, second tooth prominent, acuminate. At lower proximal angle of palm an acuminate tubercle. A row of molariform tubercles extending from lower proximal angle of palm to base of immobile finger.

An additional short row of granules runs parallel to lower margin. Lower margin with row of triangular tubercles terminating at base of dactylus, distalmost largest. A distally milled ridge on outer surface of dactylus in male, absent in female. Propodus of first ambulatory leg with large tooth on anterior margin.

Plastron coarsely granular.

First male pleopod with pronounced angle between shaft and apical lobe.

Colour.— "Lines upon carapace dark red, forming irregular loops and circles, which are smaller and more crowded anteriorly, and interspersed with spots." (Miers, 1877: 247).

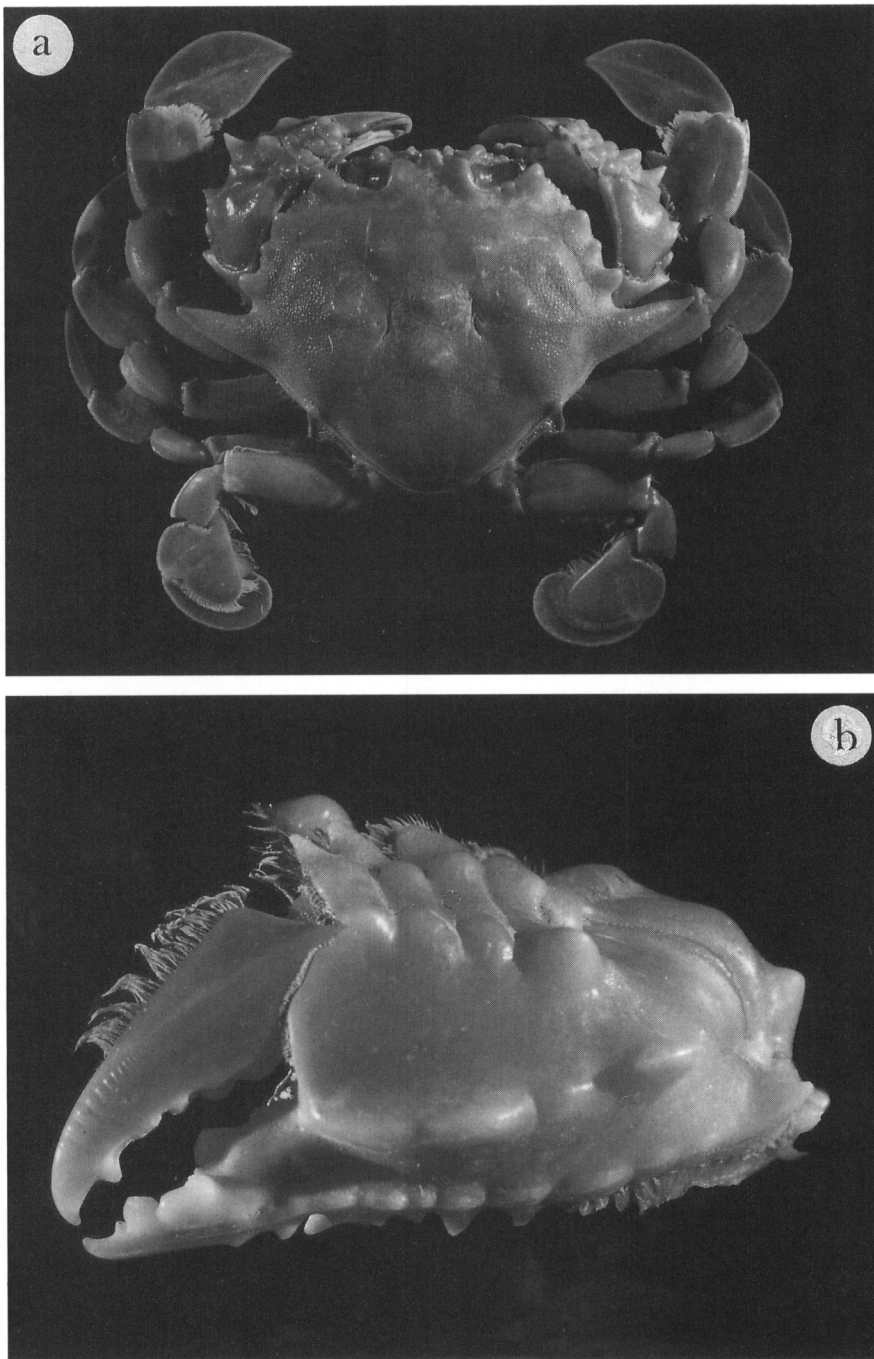
Remarks.— *A. obtusifrons* bears close resemblance to *A. lunaris* and *A. picta*. However, it is distinguished by its obtuse rostrum and its carapace is covered with looped, reticulating lines interspersed with spots, whereas *A. lunaris* is covered with minute dots and the carapace of *A. picta* is patterned with polygons. It seems that this close resemblance and the relative rarity of this species prompted later authors to synonymize *A. obtusifrons* with *M. picta* (Ortmann, 1892) or with both *M. picta* and *M. banksii* (Alcock, 1896; Klunzinger, 1906; Ihle, 1918; Estampador, 1937; Romimohtarto, 1967; Takeda, 1973).

Type locality.— Fiji Is. (Miers, 1877: 247).

Distribution.— Indonesia, New Hebrides, Fiji Is.



Fig. 3a-d; a & c = dorsal view, b & d = ventral view; a-b *Ashtoret obtusifrons* (Miers, 1877) NHM 1876.14; c-d *Ashtoret picta* (Hess, 1865) NHM 1868.32.



Pl. 5a-b; *Ashtoret obtusifrons* (Miers, 1877) NHM 1876.14; a = dorsal view, b = left chela.

Ashtoret picta (Hess, 1865) comb. nov.
(fig. 3c-d, pl. 6a-b)

Matuta lunaris; Leach, 1817: 13, pl. 127(3-5).

Matuta picta Hess, 1865: 158, pl. 6(13); Miers, 1877: 246, pl. 40(5-7); de Man, 1881: 118 (part); Haswell, 1882: 135; Miers, 1886: 295 (list); de Man, 1897: 364; 1902: 685; Ward, 1942: 69 (list).

Matuta distinguenda Hoffmann, 1877: 27, pl. 6(49-52) pl. 7(53-5); Lenz & Richters, 1881: 57.

Matuta victrix var. *picta*; Ortmann, 1892: 573.

Matuta banksii var. *picta*; Nobili, 1889: 251.

Matuta banksii; Lanchester, 1901: 552 (part); Klunzinger, 1906: 65, pl. 2(12); Sakai, 1937: 98, pl. 13(2); Barnard, 1950: 359, fig. 65 h-k; Takeda, 1973: 64 (part).

Matuta banksii; Sakai, 1976: 141, pl. 45(1) (part).

Material.— **Australia**. Sydney, 1864, coll. Schutte, det. W. Hess, holotype, ♀ 31.9 mm (SM 80a). **Red Sea**. coll. M.M. Ramadan, ♂ 32 mm (NHM 1936.12.17.4); Ras el Kanisa, Gulf of Suez, 28.x.1971, coll. L. Fishelson, 2 ♂♂ 31 mm, 32.8 mm (TAU 8331). **Aden**. pres. A. Franser-Brunner, ♀ 33 mm (NHM 1950.8.8.35-36). **Kenya**. coll. H. Copley, ♀ 41 mm (NHM 1955.6.22.45). **Tanzania**. Zanzibar, purch. Dr. Kirk, ♂ 47 mm (NHM 1868.32). **Aldabra**. Chalen sand flats, 16.x.1967, coll. J.D. Taylor, Royal Society Expedition Aldabra, 1967-1968, ♂ 62 mm, ♀ 33 mm (NHM 1993.25). **Madagascar**. Passandava Bay, 1864, coll. F.P.L. Pollen & D.C. van Dam, det. Hoffmann, as *M. distinguenda* syntype now lectotype, ♂ 51 mm ♀ 45.5 mm paralectotype (RMNH D 754); syntypes now paralectotypes, 7 ♂♂ 35-45 mm, 9 ♀♀ 24-29 mm (RMNH D 754). **Seychelles**. coll. Dr. E. P. Wright, 2 ♂♂ 53 mm, 63 mm (NHM 1875.20); Mahe, Anse Royale, 1965, coll. Dr. J. Taylor, ♂ 56 mm (NHM 1993.28); Beau Vallon Beach, Praslin, - .v.1973, coll. M. V. Angel, det. R.W. Ingle as *M. banksii*, 2 ♂♂ 40 mm, 60 mm (NHM 1993.27). **Mauritius**. pres. F. Cole, ♂ 50 mm (NHM 1842.66). **South Africa**. Durban bay, pres. Natal Govt. Mus., ♂ 66 mm (NHM 1917.619.20). **Ceylon**. coll. E.W. Holdsworth, ♂ 46 mm, ♀ 42 mm (NHM 1876.11). **Malaysia**. purch. E. Gerrard, ♂ 49 mm (NHM 1880.6). **Indonesia**. Molucca Id., Bandanaira 1881, coll. Semmelink, 2 ♂♂, ♀ (RMNH D 755); Goram Is., coll. W. Stalker, ♂ 33 mm, 3 ♀♀ 33-34 mm (NHM 1910.3.29.32-35). **Australian Seas**. coll. Mr. Warwick, det. E.J. Miers, ♂ 50 mm (NHM 1850.73); Baudin id., 8-15 fms, coll. J.J. Walker, ♂ 48 mm (NHM 1894.7.16.1). **Tahiti**. Pointe Venus, 16°30'0S 149°30'W 1992, 2 m, coll. J. Poupin, ♂ 36 mm (MNHN). **Ile de Pines, Ile Aneytioum, Ile Fontina, Tanna, New Hebrides**. HMS "Herald", pres. Lords of the Admiralty, ♂ 53 mm (NHM 1854.48).

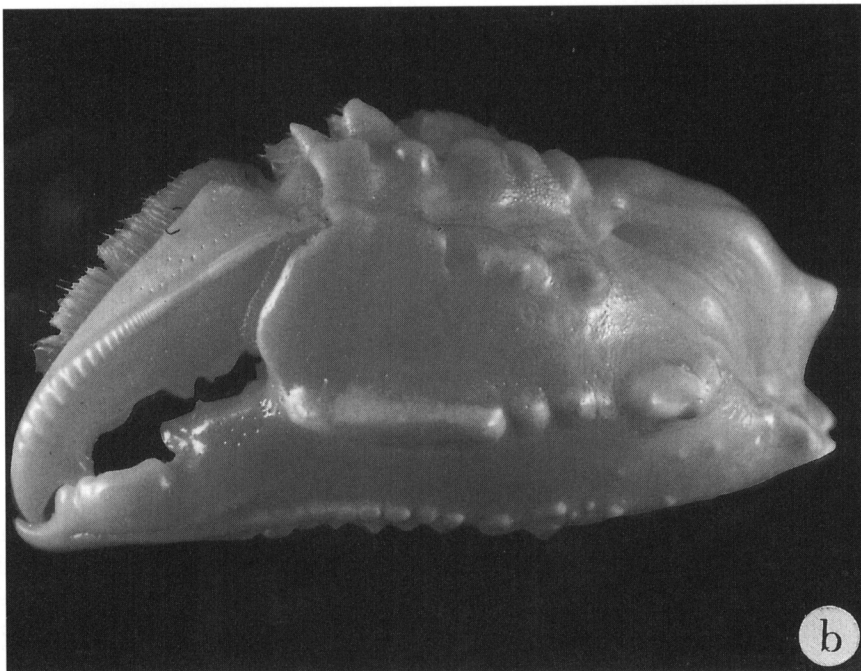
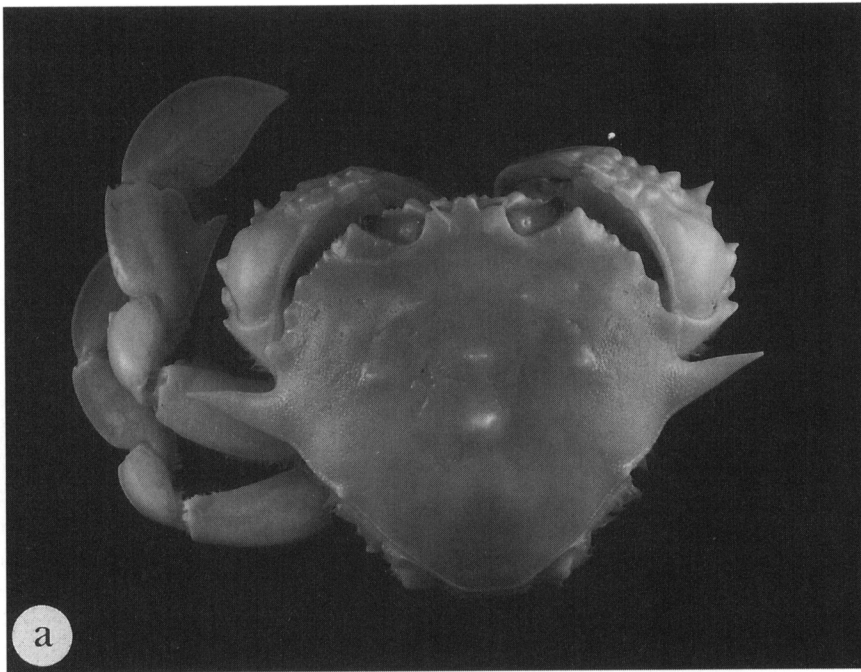
Description.— Surface of carapace minutely granulate, coarser granules laterally and around six dorsal tubercles, largest cluster surrounding mesogastric tubercle. Front with arcuate lobes laterally and a slightly emarginate rostrum medially. Exognath and ischium of third maxilliped tuberculate.

Anterolateral margins of carapace crenulate with five small tubercles followed by three large triangular, teeth-like, tubercles.

Lateral spine 0.2 carapace width. Posterolateral margin oblique, with granulate carina extending to base of lateral spine. Mid posterolateral tubercle present.

Upper external surface of palm with two rows of granulate low tubercles, proximalmost in lower row largest. Mid palm a lobed ridge, second lobe prominent, acuminate, fourth and fifth wide and obtuse. At lower proximal angle of palm an acuminate tubercle.

A row of molariform tubercles extending from lower proximal angle of palm to base of immobile finger. An additional short row of granules runs parallel to lower margin. Lower margin with row of triangular tubercles terminating at base of dactylus, distalmost largest. A distinctly milled ridge on outer surface of dactylus in male, absent in female.



Pl. 6a-b; *Ashtoret picta* (Hess, 1865) NHM 1993.25; a = dorsal view, b = left chela.

Plastron coarsely granular. First male pleopod with pronounced angle between shaft and apical lobe.

Colour (in alcohol).— Carapace with reticulating brown lines forming small polygons anteriorly and larger, longitudinal loops posteriorly.

Remarks.— Leach (1817) described *M. lunaris* as having “pollice linea elevata polita transversim tenuissime striata, tibiis tertiis et quartis articulo primo superne bicarinatis”, the carapace in the accompanying drawing (pl. 127 fig. 3) is patterned with reticulating punctate lines forming vague polygons.

Although Hess' (1865) description and drawing (pl. 6 fig. 13) of *M. picta* lack detail, Hoffmann's (1877) of *M. distinguenda* are clearly identifiable. On examining both specimens we follow de Man (1881) in considering *A. distinguenda* to be a junior synonym of *A. picta*.

Other authors, noting the similarity of *M. picta* and *M. banksii* (= *A. lunaris*), either considered it a variety (Nobili, 1889), or sought to synonymize it with the latter (Alcock, 1896; Lanchester, 1901; Klunzinger, 1906; Ihle, 1918; Balss, 1935; Sakai, 1937; Estampador, 1937; Barnard, 1950; Takeda, 1973; Sakai, 1976). *A. picta* differs from *A. lunaris* in having fourth lobe on male mid palmar ridge wide and obtuse, rather than acuminate, and carapace patterned with punctate polygons, not diffuse minute spots.

Type locality.— Sydney, Australia (Hess, 1865: 158). It seems that material collected by Dr Schutte and later determined by Hess, might have come from several localities.

Distribution.— Red Sea and East Africa, Madagascar, Seychelles, Mauritius, Ceylon, Malaysia, Australia.

Ashtoret sanguianulata spec. nov.
(fig. 4a-b, pl. 7a-b)

Material.— **Madagascar.** Holotype, Maintirano, -vi.1959, 7 m, sand, coll. A. Crosnier, ♂ 48 mm (MNHN B. 21359). Paratype, 17°58'S 43°23'E, 90-110 m, “FAO 26”, ♂ 29.8 mm (MNHN B. 24772).

Description.— Holotype; Surface of carapace polished, fine granules near lateral spines and around nearly obsolete dorsal tubercles. Front with slightly arcuate lobes laterally and barely emarginate rostrum medially. Exognath and ischium of third maxilliped tuberculate.

Anterolateral margins of carapace crenulate with five small tubercles followed by three large triangular, teeth-like, tubercles, median tubercle smallest. Lateral spine long, 0.4 carapace width. Posterolateral margin oblique, with granulate carina extending to base of lateral spine, bearing no mid posterolateral tubercle.

Upper external surface of palm with two rows of granulate tubercles. Mid palm a five-toothed ridge parallel to lower margin. Second tooth most prominent, acuminate; fourth tooth triangular, larger than third and fifth. At lower proximal angle of palm conical tubercle. A row of nearly obsolescent molariform tubercles paralleling margin from lower proximal angle of palm to base of immobile finger. Lower margin with row of sharply triangular tubercles terminating at base of dactylus, distalmost largest. Dactylus in male with distally milled ridge on outer surface, obsolete in female. First ambulatory propodus with small tooth on anterior margin.

Plastron coarsely granular.

First male pleopod with shaft unbroken.

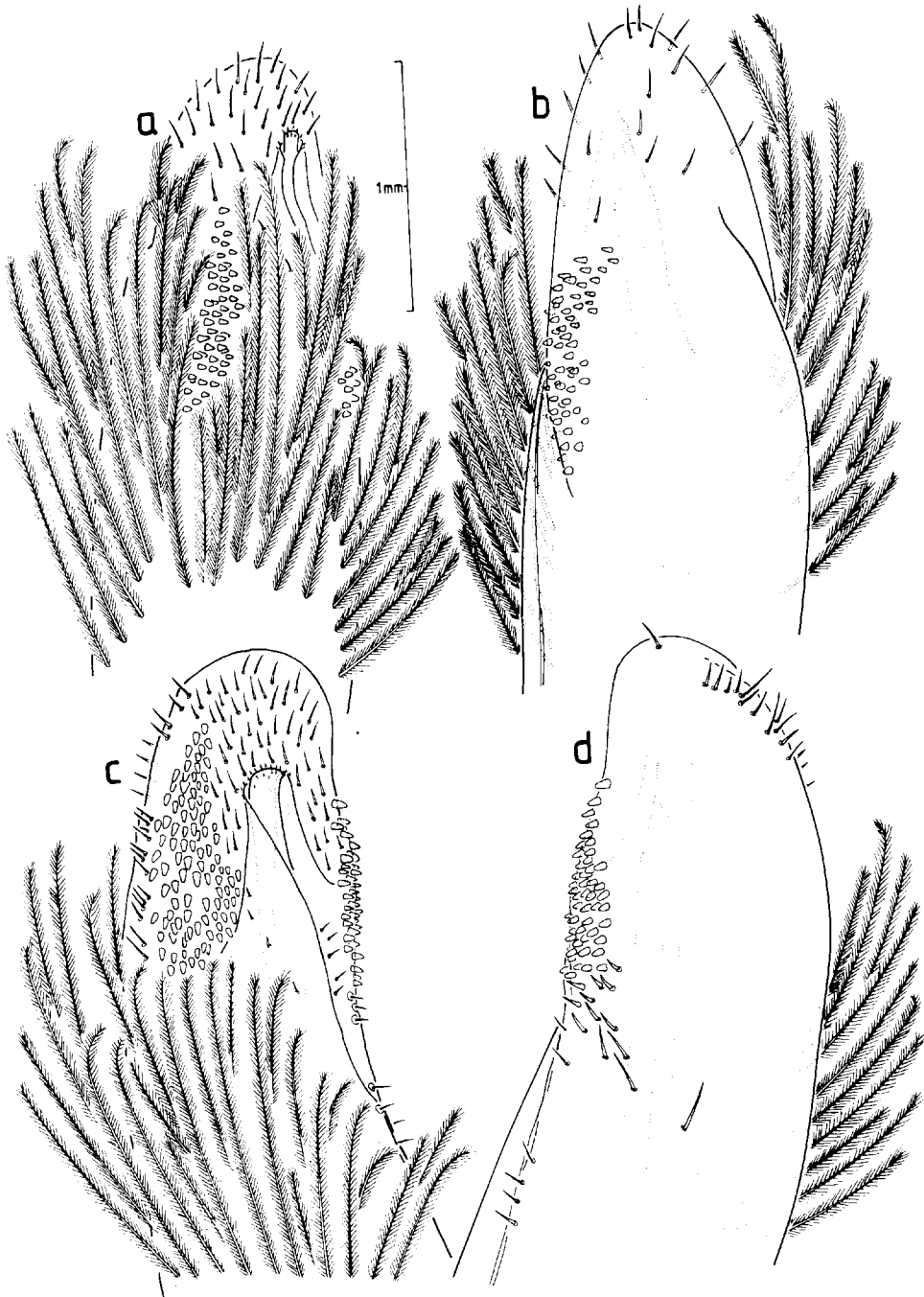


Fig. 4a-d; a & c = dorsal view, b & d = ventral view; a-b *Ashtoret sanguianulata* spec. nov. MNHN B.24772; c-d *Ashtoret shengmuuae* sp. nov. NUS 1984.6003-6007.