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On two reports associated with James Wood-Mason and Alfred William Alcock published by the Indian Museum and the Indian Marine Survey between 1890 and 1891: implications for malacostracan nomenclature

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Table of contents

Abstract	3
Introduction	4
The works: nature, authorship and publication dates	5
Authorship of taxa described in “Appendix No. XIII”	11
Authorship of taxa described in “Natural History Notes from H.M. Indian Marine Survey Steamer ‘Investigator’, Commander R.F. Hoskyn, R.N., [late] commanding”	11
Available names in Anonymous (1891—published 25 August)	19
<i>Glyphocrangon caecus</i> Wood-Mason in Anon., 1891 (25 August): priority over <i>G. caeca</i> Wood-Mason in Wood-Mason & Alcock, 1891g (1 November)	19
<i>Glyphocrangon sculptus</i> var. <i>caecescens</i> Anon., 1891 (25 August): priority over <i>G. caecescens</i> Wood-Mason in Wood-Mason & Alcock, 1891g (1 November)	20
<i>Psalidopus</i> Wood-Mason in Anon., 1891 and <i>Psalidopus mirabilis</i> Wood-Mason in Anon., 1891: priority over <i>Psalidopus</i> Wood-Mason, 1891 and <i>Psalidopus</i> Wood-Mason in Wood-Mason & Alcock, 1892a, and <i>P. mirabilis</i> Wood-Mason, 1891 and <i>P. huxleyi</i> / <i>P. spiniventris</i> Wood-Mason in Wood-Mason & Alcock, 1892a, respectively	20
<i>Psathyrocaris</i> Wood-Mason in Anon., 1891 and <i>Psathyrocaris fragilis</i> Wood-Mason in Anon., 1891: priority over <i>Psathyrocaris</i> Wood-Mason, 1891 and <i>P. fragilis</i> Wood-Mason in Wood-Mason & Alcock, 1893, respectively	21
<i>Psopheticus crepitans</i> Anon., 1891: a senior subjective synonym of <i>P. stridulans</i> Wood-Mason, 1892a	22
<i>Nomina nuda</i> in Anonymous (1891—published 25 August)	23
Stomatopoda	23
Astacidea	23
Brachyura	24
Names in Anonymous (1891) proposed as new but already made available in the “Natural History Notes from H.M. Indian Marine Survey Steamer <i>Investigator</i> ”	24
Lophogastrida	24
Stomatopoda	24
Astacidea	25
Caridea	25
Anomura	26
Brachyura	26
Names in Anonymous (1891) attributed to J. Wood-Mason but not proposed as new	27
Lophogastrida	27
Dendrobranchiata	28
Caridea	28
Brachyura	29
Acknowledgments	29
References	29
Appendix 1	34
Appendix 2	40
Appendix 3	77

Abstract

Two rare documents associated with the Indian Museum and the Indian Marine Survey for the administrative year April 1890 to March 1891 have been examined and found to have nomenclatural consequences for malacostracan crustaceans. Even though they constitute available published works according to the *International Code for Zoological Nomenclature*, these reports have rarely been cited. Dating these two publications is of importance as they make decapod scientific names available and, in a few instances, describe the same taxa. After searching the collections deposited in the Asian and African Room, British Library, the *Administration Report of the Indian Marine* for the year April 1890 to March 1891 could be dated with some degree of certainty as 25 August 1891. In contrast, dating the *Indian Museum Annual Report* proved more difficult because after examination of copies held by the General Library in the Natural History Museum, London, it was evident that not all of these reports were consistently published on time to meet an end of year deadline. However, the publication of volume XXII of the *Indian Museum Annual Report* for the year April 1890 to March 1891 appeared to be contemporary with the year printed at the bottom of the title page. As no exact date could be established with confidence, the publication date for this volume was fixed as 31 December 1891 in accordance with ICZN Art. 21.3.2. Therefore the *Administration Report of the Indian Marine* (published 25 August 1891) is considered to take precedence over the *Indian Museum Annual Report* (published 31 December 1891) and as such the names made available in the former take priority. As original copies of the *Administration Report of the Indian Marine* are not readily available in most libraries and few scientists have actually had access to these publications, the relevant Appendix No. XIII, in which the names of several malacostracan taxa are made available, is reproduced here. Since the appendix is not conclusively attributable to a specific

author, it is considered to be written anonymously and should therefore be cited as Anonymous (1891). A number of names in Appendix No. XIII are available since they are accompanied by a brief description of the taxa they denote, and are either attributable to James Wood-Mason or remain with anonymous authorship; others are *nomina nuda* without a diagnosis or indication, or have been diagnosed previously in the “Natural History Notes from H.M. Indian Marine Survey Steamer *Investigator*”. The nomenclatural implications for eight names made available in Anonymous (1891) are discussed: *Glyphocrangon caeca*, *Glyphocrangon sculptus* var. *coecescens*, Psalidopodidae, *Psalidopus*, *Psalidopus mirabilis*, *Psathyrocaris*, *Psathyrocaris fragilis* and *Psopheticus crepitans*. The nomenclatural history of various other taxa, initially denoted by unavailable names in Anonymous (1891), is also documented. The authorships of the various crustacean taxa collected by the Indian Marine Survey Steamer *Investigator* during the seasons 1889–1890 and 1890–1891, and published in two series of connected parts in the *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*, are also re-assessed and summarised. A rare document containing the list of R.I.M.S. *Investigator* stations for the period 1884–1913 is reproduced for the future benefit of the scientific community.

Key words: Administration Report of the Indian Marine Survey for the Official Year 1890–91, Indian Museum Annual Report from April 1890 to March 1891, Appendix No. XIII, Report of the Superintendent for the Year 1890–91, date of publication, authorship, nomenclature, type species, *nomina nuda*, prevailing usage, Alfred William Alcock, James Wood-Mason, *Glyphocrangon caeca*, *Glyphocrangon sculptus* var. *coecescens*, *Psopheticus stridulans*, *Psopheticus crepitans*, *Psalidopus*, *Psalidopus huxleyi*, *Psalidopus mirabilis*, *Psalidopus spiniventris*, *Psathyrocaris*, *Psathyrocaris fragilis*, Psalidopodidae, Psalidopoidea, R.I.M.S. *Investigator* station list

Introduction

The Report of the Superintendent for the year April 1890 to March 1891 in the *Indian Museum Annual Report* (IMAR; Indian Museum 1891) has rarely (if ever) been cited, but its discovery during the current study reveals it has some nomenclatural consequences for malacostracan crustaceans. Likewise, the contemporary *Administration Report of the Indian Marine [Survey]* (ARIM) for the Official Year April 1890 to March 1891, published by The Government Central Press in Bombay, India (Indian Marine [Survey] 1891), has largely been ignored in post-19th century malacostracan literature. Appendix No. XIII in this report is of particular interest to carcinologists because it makes a number of decapod names available. This Appendix has seldom been cited, although one recent example is Castro (2007). Only a few copies of these two reports were found during the course of the present study. Copies of IMAR were located in the General Library of the Natural History Museum, London (NHM) at call number S 1917a and in the British Library (BL) at call number ST534. All copies examined were hard bound in a standard light beige coloured cover with title details printed on the front cover and spine, including a volume number on the latter. The ARIM reports are listed in the holdings of three English libraries. The series held by the General Library, NHM (call number S 1907a) and the Oxford University Bodleian Library (call number IND V5) are both incomplete while the BL has two complete sets of the reports listed under call numbers L/MIL/17/9/417–435 and V/24/3040–3042. All early ARIM copies seen were bound in thin blue paper wrappers.

Examination of these publications revealed a number of discrete issues which require further consideration. The first is related to the nature of the reports themselves: do they constitute published works according to the Code (ICZN 1999), who is (are) the author(s), what are their dates of publication and which of the two reports has priority? The second problem revolves around principles of nomenclature such as availability of the scientific names listed, attribution of correct authorship to taxa, dates of availability, precedence, typification and prevailing usage. The purpose of this study is to reproduce Appendix No. XIII of the *Administration Report of the Indian Marine* for the Official Year 1890–91 (see Appendix 1), resolve the issues with regard to both this appendix and the IMAR for the year April 1890 to March 1891, and the nomenclatural implications therein, and provide an insight into the decisions taken. In addition, the list of *Investigator* stations for the period 1884–1913 was discovered in the library of the Natural History Museum (call no. 79 o C) and this rare document is also reproduced here for the future benefit of the scientific community (Appendix 2). Articles and Recommendations cited in the text refer to the fourth edition of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (ICZN 1999), the provisions of which supersede those of the previous editions of the Code with effect from 1 January 2000.

“*Glyphocrangon investigatoris*, W.-M., var. nov. *andamanensis*” and to the specimen illustrated by Wood-Mason & Alcock (1894) in their Plate VI (Figs. 2, 2a, 2b). Since Wood-Mason & Alcock’s (1891g) work does not ambiguously reveal that the name *andamanensis* was proposed for an infrasubspecific entity, it has subspecific rank from its original publication (ICZN Art. 45.6.4) and consequently is regulated by the Code. Alcock (1901: 127) did not recognize the separate identity of this subspecies and synonymised it with *Glyphocrangon investigatoris*. Komai (2004) reinstated the taxon and assigned it full specific rank as *G. andamanensis*. Authorship must be attributed to Wood-Mason in Wood-Mason & Alcock (1891g).

Brachyura

Echinoplax pungens (family Inachidae)

The work of Wood-Mason & Alcock (1891c: 259—published 1 March) contains a brief differential diagnosis of the new species *Echinoplax pungens*, making the name available and assigning its authorship to J. Wood-Mason. Station 56 was designated as the type locality. Anonymous (1891: 56) cited “*Echinoplax pungens*, Wood-Mason, from Station 115” but this record was not dealt with until Alcock (1894c: 400). Doflein (1904: 76) relegated *Echinoplax* Miers, 1886 to a junior subjective synonym of *Pleistacantha* Miers, 1879 and synonymised *E. pungens* with *Echinoplax moseleyi* Miers, 1886. Guinot & Richer de Forges (1982: 1104) reinstated *E. pungens* as a valid species, a course of action recently endorsed by Ah Yong & Ng (2007: 67). Consequently, the currently valid name of the species is *Pleistacantha pungens* (Wood-Mason in Wood-Mason & Alcock, 1891c).

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<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00222939408677694>

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