

margins. The dorsal surface plicated only on the lateral margins. Front very broad, deflexed, with the anterior margin straight or slightly sinuated. Orbits small, with the interior subocular lobe usually very broad, reaching the front, and completely excluding the antennæ from the orbit. Epistoma very short, almost linear-transverse. Endostome with the longitudinal ridges usually (but not invariably) distinctly developed. Post-abdomen (in the male) distinctly seven-jointed, and covering the whole width of the sternum at the base. Eye-peduncles short, robust. Antennules transversely plicated in short, wide fossettes. Antennæ with the basal joint very short, completely excluded from the orbit, and more or less produced at its antero-external angle; flagellum short. Exterior maxillipedes with a rhomboidal gape; the merus-joints short, and broader than in *Grapsus*, distally truncated, and bearing the next joint at their summits, near the antero-external angle. Chelipedes subequal, and moderately developed, with the merus-joints trigonous and their anterior margins distally dentated; palms somewhat turgid, rounded above and below; fingers excavated at the distal extremity. Ambulatory legs of moderate length, with the merus-joints dilated and compressed, their anterior margins with a subterminal spine, and their posterior margins with several spines at the distal extremity; the dactyli rather short and spinuliferous.

This genus is distinguished from *Pachygrapsus*, its nearest ally, by the less convex carapace, which is usually less distinctly plicated on the dorsal surface, and by the great development of the interior subocular lobe of the orbit. The species, which with their synonyms have been enumerated by Mr. Kingsley, are apparently confined to the Indo-Pacific region.

*Metopograpsus messor* (Forskål).

*Cancer messor*, Forskål, Descript. animalium quæ in itinere orientali observavit, P. Forskål, p. 88, 1775.

*Grapsus gaimardii*, Audouin, Explic. des planches in Savigny, Descr. de l'Égypte, Crust. Atlas, pl. ii. fig. 3.

„ *messor*, Milne Edwards, Hist. Nat. Crust., vol. ii. p. 88, 1837.

*Metopograpsus messor*, Milne Edwards, Ann. d. Sci. Nat., tom. cit., p. 165, 1853.

„ „ Kingsley, tom. cit., p. 190, 1880, and references to synonyma.

*Grapsus (Pachygrapsus) æthiopicus*, Hilgendorf, Crust. in Van der Decken, Reise in Ost-Afrika, vol. iii. p. 88, pl. iv. fig. 2, 1869; *teste*, Hilgendorf, Monatsber. d. k. preuss. Akad. d. Wiss. Berlin, p. 808, 1878.

*Metopograpsus messor*, var. *frontalis*, Miers.

*Metopograpsus messor*, var. *frontalis*, Miers, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 5, vol. v. p. 311, 1880.

Kandavu, Fiji (a small male); Tahiti, near the reefs (two males and two females); Papiete, Tahiti, in brackish water at the mouth of a stream (several specimens, mostly females); Sandwich Islands, Hilo, on the beach (several males and females).