

## Family ALPHEIDÆ.

This family consists of those genera that have the following common characters:—The rostrum reduced to a minimum; the ophthalmopoda short and entirely covered by the projection of the frontal margin of the carapace; the mandible carrying a psalistoma distinct from the molar process, and a two-jointed synnhipod; the first pair of pereopoda asymmetrical, on one side having the carpos short and the propodos large and normal in form, and on the other very large and variably irregular; the second pair of pereopoda long and slender, with the carpos multiarticulate and terminating in a minute chela; and, finally, the telson broad and rounded.

*Athanas*, Leach.

*Athanas*, Leach, Edin. Encycl., vol. vii. p. 432.

„ Leach, Malacos. Pod. Brit., pl. xlv.

„ Milne-Edwards, Hist. Nat. Crust., tom. ii. p. 365.

Dorsal surface of the carapace without a carina; anteriorly produced to a rostrum, not laterally compressed; orbital margin furnished with a supraorbital tooth.

Pleon smooth and gradually tapering.

Ophthalmopoda short, scarcely reaching beyond the frontal margin of the carapace.

First pair of antennæ having a long stylocerite, and terminating in two flagella, of which the upper is unequally biramous.

Second pair long, slender, and carrying a long ovate scaphocerite, armed with a distal external tooth.

Mandible furnished with a two-jointed synnhipod.

Second pair of gnathopoda pediform, five-jointed, robust.

First pair of pereopoda subequal, symmetrical, robust, chelate. Second pair multiarticulate, minutely chelate. Three succeeding pairs simple.

Rhipidura well developed.

Telson dorsally flat and laterally tapering.

*Geographical Distribution*.—European Shores and Cape Verde Islands.

Hitherto the genus has been represented only by one species, and that sparingly taken on the coasts of England and Norway. On the coasts of Devon and Dorset, and the Channel Islands, it has been taken occasionally and sometimes abundantly, and Sars records it from Christiania Fjord in Norway. I am not aware of its having been previously taken elsewhere, but the new form, *Athanas veloculus*, was captured off the Cape Verde Islands by the Challenger.