

INTRODUCTION.

Bibliography.—In literature the age of the Amphipoda scarcely reaches back beyond a century and a quarter. Linnæus knew almost nothing about them. At least, in one of his descriptions he is shrewdly suspected of having mistaken the head of the animal for its tail. Of particular species, it is true, earlier writers, such as Friderich Martens the ship's barber of Hamburg, had formed fairly accurate conceptions. In the middle of the sixteenth century Rondelet figured a specimen, but perhaps, like Linnæus two centuries later, without clearly knowing at which end of the creature to look for its head. Nearly two thousand years before Rondelet it is surmised that the keen glance of Aristotle had noted the existence of this tribe of diminutive shrimps, but his observation, though it throws a venerable prestige over their scientific record, did nothing to awaken any fruitful interest in their character and distribution. The institution of the genus *Gammarus* by J. C. Fabricius in 1775 presently brought the Amphipoda together as a group, although naturally it was due to earlier labours that any necessity for grouping was perceived. During the next forty years these Crustaceans no longer suffered from the neglect which had previously left them obscure. When Latreille, in 1816, gave them the name Amphipoda, an important stage was marked in the growing knowledge and interest about them. Since then they have received a very ample measure of attention, and at the present day they are studied in many parts of the world with great skill and evident enthusiasm. Of the literature of the subject numerous lists have been published, among which that by the late Axel Boeck in 1872 is the most important. He arranges in alphabetical order the names of one hundred and fifty authors, giving the titles of their contributions to the number in all of two hundred and seventy-three. This catalogue extends to the year 1871. A separate chronological review of the literature is carried down only to the year 1855. This part of Boeck's work is especially valuable for the comments which his large knowledge of the subject enabled him to supply. He intimates, however, that his comments are chiefly concerned with northern species. For dealing properly with the almost cosmopolitan Challenger collection it seemed indispensable to verify, and as far as possible to complete, the review which Boeck had so admirably begun. Neither the difficulty of the task nor the prodigious bulk of the material result was at first foreseen. From folio to pamphlet a vast mass of literature had to be consulted. How much borrowing of