

A BLIND AMPHIPOD FROM A MINE IN BENGAL.

By CHAS. CHILTON, M.A., D.Sc., F.L.S., Professor of Biology, Canterbury Museum, Dunedin.

Dr. Annandale, Director of the Zoological Survey of India, has been good enough to send me a number of blind Amphipoda from a coal mine in Bengal which had been sent to the Indian Museum by Dr. John W. Tomb, Chief Sanitary Officer, Asansol Mines Board of Health, with the following information:—

“I am informed by the Manager of the Jamuria Colliery that the pit in which these Crustacea were found is 300 feet deep. Jamuria Colliery is situated in the thana of Jamuria in the Asansol Sub-Division.”

There are many specimens, all of the small size, about 5 mm. long; they are delicate and fragile and unfortunately many of the appendages had broken off in transit. There is no trace of eyes and although the specimens do not agree quite closely in all points with the definition of *Niphargus* as given by Stebbing¹ they are sufficiently near to be placed under that genus for the present.

The following brief description and figures will probably be sufficient for their identification.

***Niphargus indicus*, sp. nov.**

Body slender, dorsal surface with a few fine scattered hairs, one or two stouter setules on each of pleon segments 4, 5 and 6.

No trace of eyes seen.

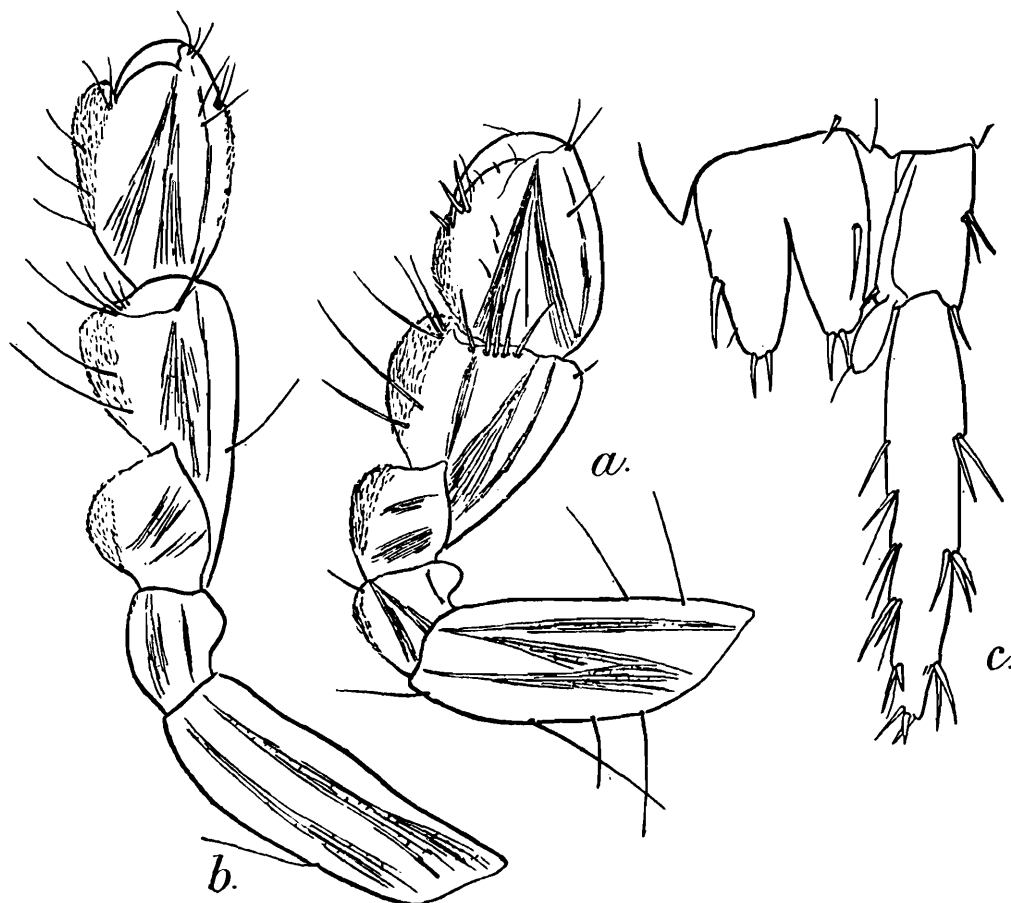
Antennae about one-third the length of the body, first rather longer than second, the first two joints of its peduncle subequal, the third shorter; flagellum with about 18 joints, accessory flagellum of two small joints; second antenna with last joint of peduncle a little shorter than the preceding; flagellum of about 7 joints. Mouth parts on the whole normal but the palp of the mandible has the third joint rather shorter than the second, and in the lower lip the inner lobes were not made out; the inner lobe of maxilla 1 is small, slender, tapering and bears 2 or 3 setae as in typical species of the genus.

The first gnathopod shorter and stouter than the second, its basal joint broad, carpus with hinder margin produced into a lobe bearing several setae, propod oval, about the same size as the carpus, palm oblique, slightly convex.

The second gnathopod long, basal joint not broadened, merus produced posteriorly into a rounded lobe, carpus with lobe as in the first gnathopod, propod rather longer and broader than the carpus, narrow at base, widening distally, the palm transverse, distinctly marked off from the rounded lobe at the end of the short acute dactyl.

¹ Das Tierreich, Amphipoda, p. 405.

In both gnathopoda the posterior surface of the merus, carpus and propod is thickly covered with fine, minute setae.



Niphargus indicus, sp. nov.

a. First gnathopod. b. Second gnathopod. c. Third uropod and telson.

First and second peraeopods slender, rather shorter than the third; third, fourth and fifth peraeopods long, increasing successively in length; in all the basal joint is well broadened, oval, its posterior margin fringed with small setae.

The third uropod not greatly elongated, its peduncle not reaching to the end of the telson; outer branch about twice as long as the peduncle, formed of one joint only or with the terminal joint small and not clearly marked, both margins bearing 3 or 4 tufts of setae; inner branch very small with 1 or 2 minute setae at the extremity.

Telson very deeply cleft, each lobe narrowing posteriorly, the rounded end furnished with 2 setae, a stout seta (or sometimes two) situated near middle of outer margin of each lobe.

Length—5 mm.

Colour.—Whitish.

Locality.—In Jamuria Colliery, 300 ft. deep, Asansol, Bengal.