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I. Wissenschaftliche Mittheilungen.

1. *Uronectes* and *Anaspides*.

A reply to Prof. Ant. Fritsch, by W. J. Calman, D. Sc. University, College, Dundee.

eingeg. 4. October 1901.

In his note on the genus *Gamponychus* (= *Uronectes*¹) and its allies in No. 651 of this Journal, Prof. Fritsch dismisses very summarily the suggestion that these fossil forms have any near relationship with the living *Anaspides* of Tasmania, on the sole ground that he finds them to be destitute of exopods on the thoracic legs. This is by no means sufficient to decide the question. The view which I formerly advocated was based primarily on the fact that „*Anaspides* agrees with the extinct genera . . . in the essential point in which they have hitherto stood alone, the combination of Podophthalmate characters whith a completely segmented body and the lack of a carapace“². This agreement, so far as it goes, has been made only the more striking by Prof. Fritsch's investigations, for the presence of pedunculated

¹ For the synonymy of this genus see Ortman in Bronn's Thierreich, Crustacea, II. p. 1297.

² On the Genus *Anaspides*. Trans. Roy. Soc. Edinburgh, 1897. XXXVIII. p. 801.

eyes, hitherto uncertain, is made abundantly evident by the figures, both of *Gasocaris* and of *Uronectes* in the »Fauna der Gaskohle«.

While giving due weight to the great experience which Prof. Fritsch brings to the deciphering of these very difficult fossils, it is hardly possible to accept as final the restorations which he offers. Thus, in the case of *Uronectes*, the presence of seven abdominal somites (besides the telson), and of two pairs of maxillipeds in front of the seven pairs of thoracic legs, are characters so exceedingly peculiar as to preclude direct comparison with any other known crustacean; and, without attaching so much importance to the absence of thoracic exopods, there may perhaps be found room for some doubt on this point also. Prof. Fritsch finds (as I had previously suggested) that the apparent forking of the legs in the well-known figure of *Uronectes fimbriatus* is really due to an overlapping of the legs of the two sides. He makes no reference however to the fact that Jordan and Meyer further describe and figure (*Palaeontographica* IV. 1854) very distinct traces of large appendages springing from the bases of the legs, where one would naturally expect to find the exopods. In the case of *Palaeocaris* also Prof. Fritsch states that the legs are uniramous, overlooking, apparently, Packard's explicit evidence to the contrary³. On the other hand it is quite possible that *Gasocaris*, with its strongly built legs suggestive of creeping habits, was really devoid of exopods.

Be this as it may, I would point out that Prof. Fritsch to some extent misinterprets my position. My contention was for the affinity of the fossil forms not with the *Schizopoda* but with *Anaspides*. Many carcinologists now reject the *Schizopoda* as a natural group and in any case the place of *Anaspides* among them is open to question. As to the fossil genera, the absence of exopods no more disproves their relationship with *Anaspides* than the possession of them would suffice to justify their inclusion within the *Schizopoda*.

2. Zur Kenntnis der myrmecophilen Antennophorus und anderer auf Ameisen und Termiten reitender Acarinen.

(121. Beitrag zur Kenntnis der Myrmecophilen und Termitophilen.)

Von E. Wasmann S. J. (Luxemburg).

eingeg. 6. October 1901.

1877 beschrieb G. Haller einen neuen Gamasiden, der von Herrn Dr. Uhlmann in Münchenbuchsee (Kanton Bern, Schweiz) als Parasit auf »*Formica nigra*« gefunden worden war, unter dem

³ On the Gamponychidae. Mem. Nat. Acad. Sc. Washington, 1886. III.

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