

BULLETIN

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Deel XIII, n° 1.

Brussel, Januari 1937.

**A NEW TERRESTRIAL ISOPOD FROM SIAM
COLLECTED BY
H. R. H. THE PRINCE LEOPOLD OF BELGIUM
IN THE FAR EAST IN THE YEAR 1932,
by H. G. JACKSON (London).**

The Terrestrial Isopod described below has the following features of interest. It belongs to the « Spherillo » complex in respect of its head and mouthparts, but the body is less well adapted for rolling up than is usual in these Isopods. No splitting or folding of the first epimerite is seen, the pronotum is narrow and the postero-lateral angles are well developed. The posterior margin of the abdomen, however, has the semicircular shape of the typical « conglobating » forms. The eyes are not reduced, so adaptation to a cave habitat has not gone far, but it may well be that this form is derived from a « Spherillo » which has begun to lose the power of rolling up.

Although the classification of the Armadillo group has been based by some authors on the character of the first tergite, it has yet to be shewn whether the grooves and folds are impressed upon the growing animal by the muscular activity comprised in the action of rolling up (a parallel case to the crests on the developing limb bone of vertebrates) or whether they have a genetical origin apart from the tendency to roll up. The former basis seems an unsafe one for classification, but the character is convenient and is adopted here. The present form is an addition to the number of cave forms whose loss of an organ can most plausibly be explained by its disuse.

Troglodillo, gen. n.

Head of Armadillo type; well developed frontal shield, antero-posteriorly flattened.

Maxillula: inner endite with two very short and stout penicilli and no terminal spine; outer endite 4 + 6 (all simple and long).

Maxillipede: endopod very short; endite with three large terminal spines.

Margin of first thoracic tergite neither split nor grooved; articulating laciniae absent on all tergites.

First and second abdominal tergites very short and without postero-lateral angles; remainder well developed.

Base of uropod drawn back; exopod small. Telson broad, exceeding uropod.

First pleopod of female without opercular portion, only tracheal part being present.

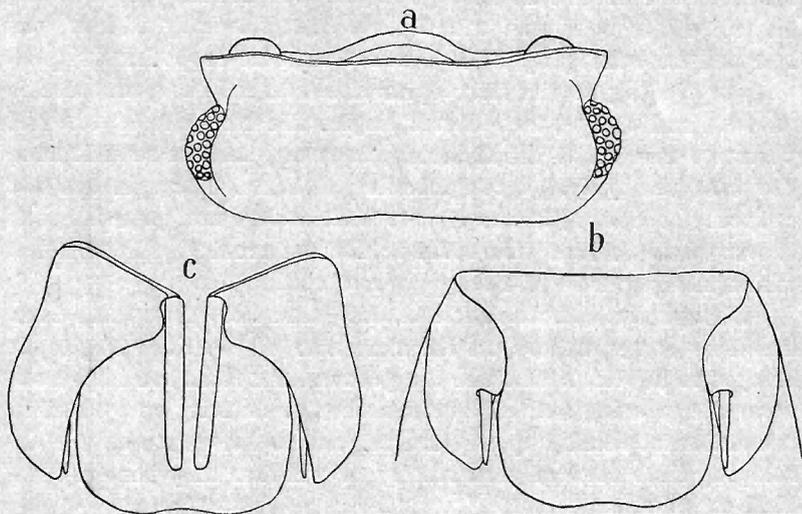


Fig. 1. — *Troglodillo emarginatus*, sp. n.

a, Head, from above: b, Telson and Uropods, from above:
c, Telson and Uropods, from below.

Troglodillo emarginatus, sp. n.

Three mature females.

Length, 14 mm., *breadth*, 7.5 mm., *shape*, broad-oval.

Surface, smooth and minutely scaly.

Head. Eyes, about 29 ocelli : frontal shield well developed, lateral lobes prominent, triangular and slightly tumid; upper margin well marked, not turned back on vertex.

Antennary sockets very wide apart and at margin of face : lateral processes of clypeus massive and triangular.

Thorax. All epimera with well marked postero-lateral angles; hind borders slightly sinuate on each side. No articulating laciniae on any tergite; edge of first epimerite thin and turned up,

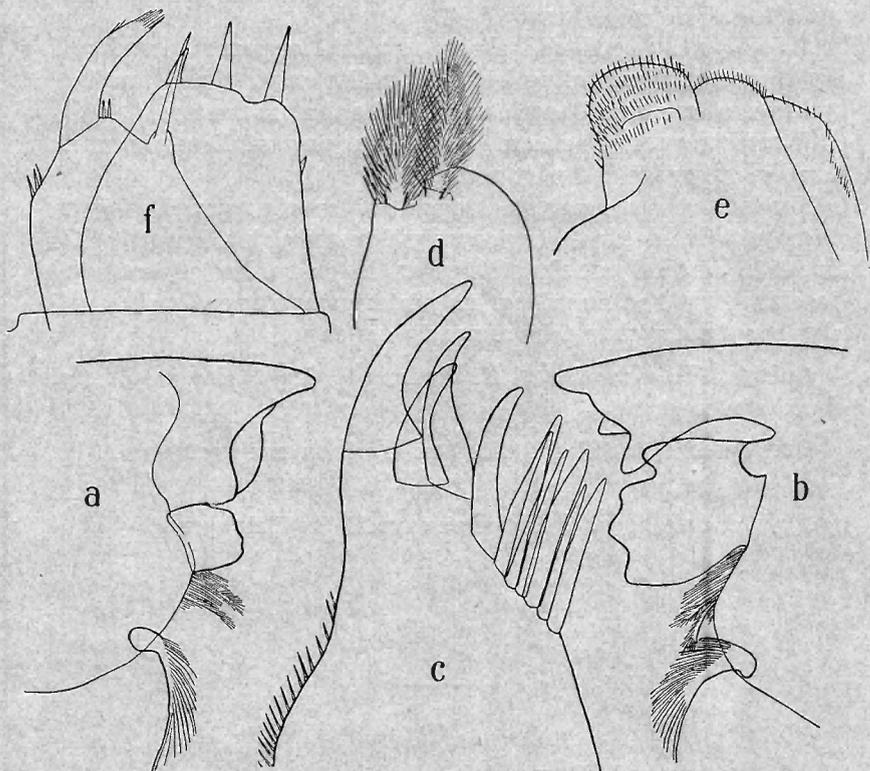


Fig. 2. — *Troglodillo emarginatus*, sp. n.

a, right Mandible: b, left Mandible: c, Maxillula, outer endite:
d, Maxillula, inner endite: e, Maxilla: f, Maxillipede.

not split or grooved. Pronotum narrow, scarcely one-fifth tergite.

Abdomen. Fifth tergite exceeding base of uropod but not telson, hind border divaricating. Telson only slightly coarctate, somewhat spatulate, posterior border emarginate; length slightly exceeds breadth of narrowest part.

APPENDAGES.

Antennule: distal segment long and slender.

Antenna: missing.

Maxillula: outer endite 4 + 6, inner teeth styloform, crowded together and simple; inner endite with two short and bushy penicilli, head of endite rounded, without spine.

Maxilla: distinctly three lobed, inner abruptly marked off, all setose.

Maxillipede: endopod short, terminal segment curved and long, scarcely exceeding endite; endite with three terminal spines and one small tooth on inner border, not setose.

Pleopoda: all tracheate, operculate part of first absent in female, only tracheal part retained.

Uropoda: base narrow, elongate, outer edge sloped away to form with inner edge a backwardly directed point. Length = 1.5 breadth. Exopod slender, long, on inner border of base and reaching, but not exceeding, its posterior angle; endopod considerably shorter than telson, nearly as long as base.

Colour. (In alcohol and ill preserved), light brown epimera, dark brown centre.

Occurrence. Pha-Thai, (N. Siam) « dans une grotte », 24-II-1932.

Type. Musée royal d'Histoire naturelle de Belgique.