Article XV.—NOTICE OF TWO VERY LARGE LOBSTERS IN THE COLLECTION OF THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY.

By R. P. WHITFIELD.

PLATE IX.

The Museum received two unusually large specimens of the common marine Lobster, *Homarus americanus* DeKay, during the spring of 1897, both of which were captured off Atlantic Highlands, N. J., by fishermen engaged in that business, and within a short time of each other.

The two individuals, although of exceptionally large size, vary but little in their dimensions. The weight of the larger one, while living, was about 34 pounds, and of the smaller one about 31 pounds.

The smaller one came into possession of Mr. Alfred Cabassud, who at the time had a restaurant in Lower Broadway, and who presented it to the Museum; the larger one was exhibited at the Castle Garden Aquarium for a time, but neither survived more than a few days, and afterward both were prepared and mounted for permanent preservation.

The unusual size of these specimens has been thought worthy of notice, and a series of measurements has been made of them and given below, one while in a fresh state, the other, after drying and mounting, during which process considerable shrinkage took place.

Lobsters, like all Crustaceans, are subject to many abnormalities and accidents during growth and in moulting, and in consequence specimens are often found with abnormally developed parts. One example in the Museum collection shows a double right-hand claw, while all other parts are normally developed. These two large individuals, although of such unusual size, appear to be quite normal in all parts, being simply overgrown.

The first set of the following measurements was made by Dr. E. O. Hovey, of the Museum, from the specimens after mounting, and shows the differences between the two individuals. The

other set was made from the larger one, while still fresh, but just after death, by J. B. Briggs, Jr., of the New York University, class of '98, under the direction of Prof. C. L. Bristol. The first set was made in millimetres, while that of Mr. Briggs was made in inches and has been reduced to millimetres.

	No. 1. MM.	No. 2. MM.
Length of carapace, including rostrum, along median line	257	280
Circumference of carapace behind second pair of legs	268	486
Length of abdomen to point of telson	300	311
Breadth of tail	230	223
Large chelate limbs: right side, length of first two joints	160	165
" " " third joint	120	122
" " " fourth joint	360	365
" " " thumb	145	201
" circumference of third joint	236	248
" " " fourth "	442	348
" length of whole limb	570	610
left side, length of first two joints	171	183
" " " third joint	118	124
" " " fourth joint	360	375
" " " thumb	198	155
" " " whole limb	580	615
" circumference of third joint	237	263
" " " fourth "	339	491
Entire length as mounted	920	1005

Length of antennæ exceeds 400 mm.

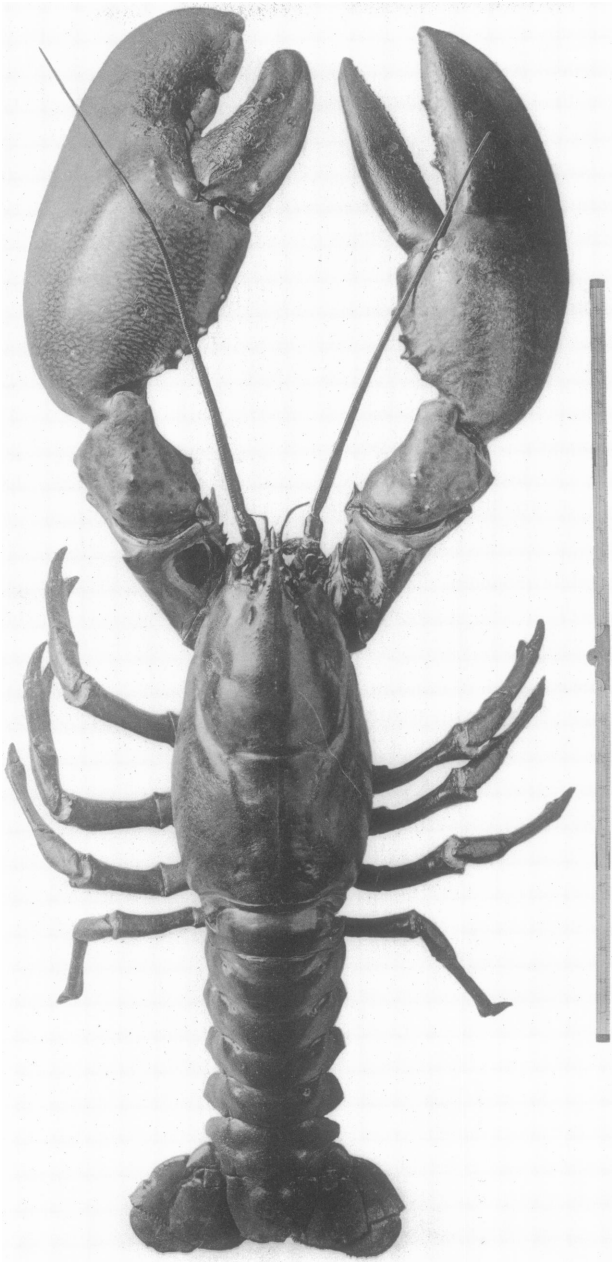
The right limb bears the crushing claw in No. 1, but the left limb bears it in No. 2. The weight of No. 1 when caught was said to be 31 pounds; that of No. 2 was said to be 34 pounds.

Measurements of No. 2, made by J. B. Briggs, Jr.

	INCHES.	MM.
Total length, rostrum to end of telson, not including hairs	$23\frac{3}{4}$	603
CARAPACE:		
Length of rostrum	$2\frac{5}{16}$	59
" " carapace	$9\frac{3}{4}$	248
" " " including rostrum	$11\frac{1}{16}$	306
Distance from cervical groove to posterior edge of carapace	$4\frac{9}{16}$	116
Breadth between spines, near base of rostrum	$1\frac{9}{16}$	40
Breadth between spines, near base of second antenna	$2\frac{13}{16}$	70
Girth of carapace behind cervical groove	$19\frac{3}{4}$	502

	INCHES.	MM.
PLEON:		
Length of second segment (including facet)	$2\frac{1}{16}$	52
Breadth " "	$4\frac{9}{16}$	116
Girth " " (spine to spine)	$14\frac{1}{2}$	267
Length of sixth segment (including facet)	$1\frac{4}{16}$	22
Breadth " "	$4\frac{7}{16}$	113
Length of telson (not including setæ)	$2\frac{12}{16}$	70
Breadth " at base	$2\frac{15}{16}$	75
ANTENNÆ:		
Length of stalk of first antenna	$1\frac{4}{16}$	32
" " basal segment	1	25
Breadth of basal segment	$\frac{10}{16}$	16
Length of eyestalk	$\frac{10}{16}$	16
Breadth "	$\frac{8}{16}$	13
Length of stalk of second antenna	$2\frac{8}{16}$	56
Length of exopodite (scale)	$\frac{14}{16}$	22
Greatest width	$\frac{9}{16}$	14
PEREIOPODS:		
Large forceps (crushing claws):		
Length of propodus (straight measurement)	15	381
Greatest breadth of propodus at articulation with dactyl	$7\frac{10}{16}$	194
Girth of propodus just behind articulation of dactyl	$20\frac{1}{2}$	521
Length of dactyl	$6\frac{8}{16}$	157
Greatest breadth of dactyl	$3\frac{2}{16}$	79
" girth " "	$9\frac{1}{2}$	241
Length of carpus (on inner margin, not including proximal spine)	$4\frac{7}{16}$	113
Greatest breadth of carpus	$3\frac{3}{8}$	86
" girth " "	12	305
Length of meros (outer border)	$5\frac{10}{16}$	143
Breadth "	$3\frac{12}{16}$	95
Small forceps:		
Length of propodus (from tip to spine near proximal end)	$15\frac{1}{2}$	394
Breadth of propodus	$5\frac{10}{16}$	143
Girth " "	$15\frac{1}{4}$	387
Length of dactyl	$7\frac{15}{16}$	202
Greatest breadth of dactyl	2	51
" girth " "	$6\frac{3}{4}$	171
Length of carpus (on inner margin, not including proximal spine)	$4\frac{1}{16}$	103
Greatest breadth of carpus	$3\frac{7}{16}$	87
" girth " "	$11\frac{1}{4}$	284
Length of meros (outer border)	$5\frac{7}{16}$	138
Greatest breadth of meros	$4\frac{4}{16}$	108

	INCHES.	MM.
Second and fifth pereiopods :		
Length of propodus, second pereiopod	$3\frac{9}{16}$	90
Breadth at articulation of dactyl	$1\frac{3}{16}$	30
Length of dactyl	$2\frac{13}{16}$	70
Breadth " (at articulation)	$\frac{10}{16}$	16
Greatest length of carpus	$2\frac{8}{16}$	63
Breadth of carpus (second pereiopod)	$1\frac{3}{16}$	28
Length of dactyl (fifth pereiopod)	1	25
Breadth of dactyl (fifth pereiopod)	$\frac{8}{16}$	13
Length of propodus	$2\frac{13}{16}$	71
Breadth " (dist. ext.)	$\frac{12}{16}$	19
" " (prox. ")	$\frac{12}{16}$	19
Length of carpus	$1\frac{12}{16}$	44
Breadth "	$\frac{11}{16}$	17
PLEOPODS :		
Length of first pleopod	$2\frac{13}{16}$	71
" " distal segment	$1\frac{12}{16}$	44
Greatest breadth of distal segment	$\frac{11}{16}$	17
Length of stalk of second pleopod	$1\frac{10}{16}$	41
Breadth " " " "	$\frac{12}{16}$	19
Length of exopodite	$1\frac{12}{16}$	44
Breadth "	$\frac{9}{16}$	14
Length of exopodite, sixth pleopod, from an angle between spines of protopodite	$3\frac{5}{16}$	84
Greatest breadth of exopodite at hinge, sixth pleopod	$2\frac{12}{16}$	70
Length of endopodite (sixth pleopod)	$2\frac{6}{16}$	60
Greatest breadth " " "	$2\frac{8}{16}$	63



HOMARUS AMERICANUS *DeKay.*

From off Atlantic Highlands, N. J.

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