NOTE ON CLEISTOSTOMA EDWARDSII (MCLEY), A SOUTH AFRICAN OCYPODID

BY

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WITH 5 TEXTFigURES

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Cleistostoma edwardsii (McLeay)

McLeay says: "Cleistotoma oculis magnis, testâ laevi haud pilosâ late-ribus integris nec granulosis nec postice divergentibus, manibus brevibus;"
pedum pari tertio longiori, femoribus infra laevibus. Note. This species comes very near to the **Cleistostoma Leachii** of Milne Edwards; but differs from it in the surface being altogether smooth. The length is four lines.”

Krauss adds no further information and Stebbing states: „I do not know whether McLeay’s species has been since recognised.”

The material, collected by Dr Brongersma and Dr Engel in South Africa, contains 33 specimens of a *Cleistostoma* species, collected at Knysna, probably *Cleistostoma edwardsii* McLeay.

Gordon (1931, *Journ. Linn. Soc. London*, vol. 37, p. 550) gives a figure of the ♂ pleopods of *Paracleistostoma leachi* (Audouin). The pleopods of our species differ from these and from those of the two other species (*depressum* de Man and *crisatum* (Ortmann)) figured by Gordon.

The ♂ pleopods of *longimanum* and *microcheir* (Tweedie, 1937, *Bull. Raffles Mus.*, No. 13, p. 157—160) are different too.

**Fig. 2.** *Cleistostoma edwardsii*, ♀, left cheliped, × 14.

**Fig. 3.** *Cleistostoma edwardsii*, ♂, left cheliped, × 7.

**Fig. 4.** *Cleistostoma edwardsii*, ♂, third maxillipeds and distal abdominal segments with sternal sutures, × 7.

**Fig. 5.** *Cleistostoma edwardsii*, ♂, left anterior pleopod, × 12.

Description. Carapace broad, broader than long, with its lateral margins resembling those of *Euplax bosci* (Audouin), but the tooth at the external angle of the orbit is broader and more rounded; the tooth farther back on the lateral margin is even more obsolete. The surface of the carapace is smooth, except for a hairy “branchial facet”.
The buccal cavern is short and broad; merus and ischium of the third maxillipeds are both broader than long; the third maxillipeds quite close the mouth. The basal segment of the palp is broad, its inner and upper border fringed with long hairs.

Chelipeds of the $\Phi$ smaller and more slender than any of the walking legs. Fingers setose, spooned at the tips and widely gaping at the base; no tooth on the dactylus. The chelipeds of the $\Omega$ are much broader, devoid of hair and with a rather large, blunt tooth near the base of the dactylus.

These crabs live in the muddy parts of the shores of Knysna lagoon.

For the drawing of fig. 1-4 I am indebted to Mr. L. P. Pouderoyen.