



The Brachyura described by Thomas Roscoe Rede Stebbing and a listing of Stebbing's South African Crustacea for the Marine Investigations in South Africa (Crustacea: Decapoda)

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The Reverend Thomas Roscoe Rede Stebbing (b. 6 February 1835, d. 8 July 1926) is best known for his work on amphipod systematics (see Calman 1926, 1927; Mills 1976). Stebbing, however, also contributed significantly to the study of decapod crustaceans of South Africa in the 12-part *South African Crustacea for the Marine Investigations in South Africa* (Table 1). In 15 publications (Stebbing 1902, 1904, 1905a, b, 1908, 1910, 1914a, 1917b, 1918, 1920a, b, 1921a, b, 1923, 1924), Stebbing established seven genus- (four currently considered to be valid) and 29 (18 currently considered to be valid) species-group names for Brachyura (Table 2). The two family-group names proposed by Stebbing (1902, 1905a) are now junior synonyms. Three names: *Dotilla clepsydra* Stebbing, 1917 (= *Dotilla fenestrata* Hilgendorf, 1869, Dotillidae), *Epialtus vetchi* Stebbing, 1920 (= *Elamena mathoei* (Desmarest, 1823), Hymenosomatidae), and *Mamaia queketti* Stebbing, 1908 (= *Maja capensis* Ortmann, 1894, Majidae), were not treated in the world brachyuran checklist of Ng *et al.* (2008) (see notes accompanying Table 2).

According to Sherborn (1940: 127), the material on which Stebbing based his descriptions was deposited in what is now known as the Natural History Museum, London (NHM) but “most of the spirit had evaporated and [the] specimens were practically useless”. This is not entirely accurate since several of the types are still extant (e.g., see Cleva *et al.* 2007: 244; Gordon 1941: 136; Harminto & Ng 1991: 191; Tan 2004: 191; Tavares 1993: 274–276, 290, 292) or have been rediscovered (e.g., Castro 2007: 635; Ng & Clark 2010: 575) in the NHM (Table 2). In addition, the types of 13 species of Brachyura described by Stebbing are in the collection of the South African Museum, Cape Town, South Africa (SAM) (Kensley 1974: 57–64) (Table 2). In addition to the checklist of the new names for the Brachyura established by Stebbing (Table 2), we have also ascertained the accurate dates of publication of Stebbing's publications in which they were proposed. A complete list of Stebbing's publications can be found in Mills (1976: 69–74).

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