





*Description of a NEW FOSSIL CRUSTACEAN from the LOWER GREENSAND.*  
By CHARLES GOULD, Esq., B.A., of the Geological Survey of Great Britain.

[Communicated by Prof. Huxley, F.R.S., F.G.S.]

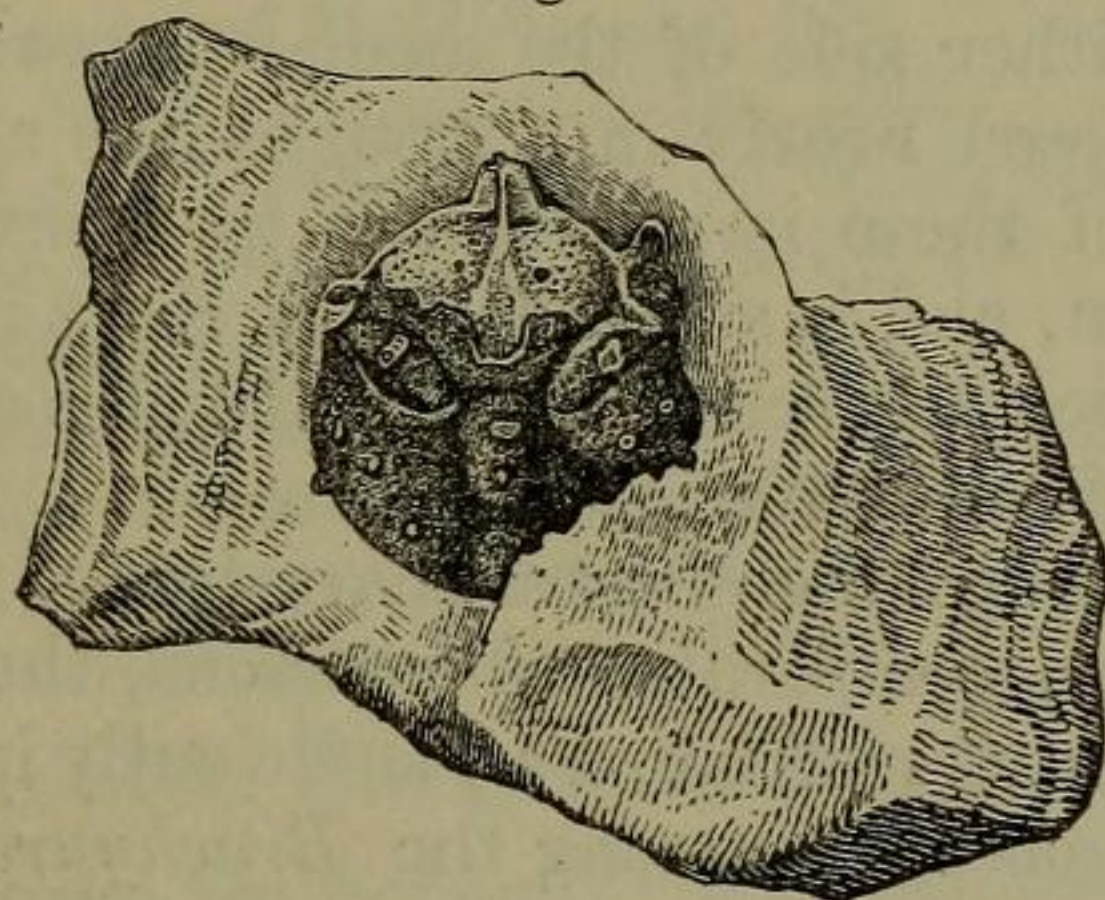
(Read June 23, 1858.)

I REGARD the Crustacean which I am about to describe with peculiar interest, on account of its belonging to that group of the *Brachyura* which comprehends the highest forms of the class, and of which hitherto but one species (*Mithracia libinoides*, Bell\*) has been described as occurring in the fossil state in Great Britain.

At present I am only aware of the existence of two specimens of the species which I shall here describe,—one in the collection at the British Museum, the other in that of the Geological Survey of Great Britain; both are from the Lower Greensand of Atherfield in the Isle of Wight, and in each the carapace only is preserved. It is from an examination of these specimens that I have taken the following characters.

Figs. 1, 2, 3.—*Mithracites Vectensis*, natural size.

Fig. 1.



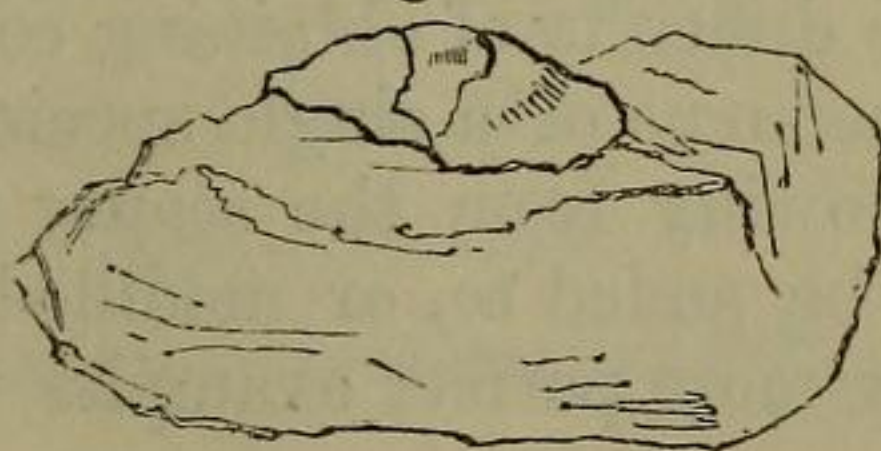
Carapace, viewed from above.

Fig. 2.



Front view of the Carapace.

Fig. 3.



Side view of the Carapace, in outline.

MITHRACITES VECTENSIS, nov. gen. et spec.

*Carapace*: arched in front, somewhat depressed behind, rotundate; length slightly exceeding the breadth, which is greatest at the

\* Monograph Fossil Malacostr. Crust. Great Britain, Part I. Crustacea of the London Clay. (Palæontograph. Soc.) 1858, p. 9, pl. 5. figs. 10-12.



level of the anterior cardiac region. Front produced into a lamellar rostrum, of equal length and breadth, grooved in the middle, and terminating anteriorly in a point without any bifurcation. In both the specimens examined the remainder of the fronto-orbital portion of the carapace is imperfect, and partially concealed in the matrix; but the ocular peduncle was apparently inserted just beneath the rostrum, and the eyes folded back into a slightly concave orbit, the upper edge of which is less advanced than the former.

Cephalic and meso-branchial grooves deep and distinct; gastro-hepatic less so; meta-branchial furrow indistinguishable.

In the smaller specimen the meta-gastric and uro-gastric regions are separated from each other by a transverse furrow, and a separation of the lobes in each of these regions is indicated by a longitudinal median furrow. In the larger specimen these parts are imperfect; but the grooves, as far as they can be seen, appear to be less distinct. In both specimens the anterior cardiac region is distinguishable. The meso-gastric region is triangular in form, with the apex extending forwards between the lobes of the epi- and proto-gastric regions. The hepatic region is small, and has an obtuse spine at its point of contact with the orbits. The upper surface of the carapace is covered with two species of tubercles, the smaller of which are irregularly scattered over it, and the latter more definitely arranged. Two, of a fusiform shape, are situated at the base of the rostrum, one on either side of the median groove, and are followed by five others disposed nearly in a straight line across the carapace. The central one of these is situated in the apex of the triangular meso-gastric region, and is succeeded at a short interval by another and somewhat larger tubercle. The branchial regions on either side also carry five or six tubercles.

*Affinities.*—Although the general characters of the carapace (such as its peculiar form, comparative dimensions, the production of its front into an elongated rostrum, &c.) sufficiently indicate the position which this species occupies among the *Brachyura*, still its affinities with existing genera are not sufficiently close to allow of its being placed among the members of either of them, and I therefore propose to give it the generic title of *Mithracites*. Fully recognizing the difficulty of obtaining complete generic characters from imperfect specimens of a single species, I have only ventured to give the few following from the scanty material at my command, leaving them to be added to, or modified, if necessary, after the examination of any more perfect examples which may be subsequently obtained.

#### GENUS MITHRACITES.

*Carapace* slightly longer than broad, and having most of the regions well defined; front produced into a rostrum, not bilobed; orbits shallow, with the under edge anterior to the upper.

---