It is noteworthy that both specimens are longer than the maximum given by Weber and de Beaufort[1], which is 439 mm., and these do not appear to be fully-grown fishes. I have omitted fin-counts as the mounting process made it impossible to take them with accuracy.

The fish is known to the Perak Malays as *kĕlĕsa*.[2]

A Fresh-water Crab, Paratelphusa sexpunctatum (Lanch.) in the Malay Peninsula

By N. SMEDLEY, *M. A.*

(Plate III and two text figures)

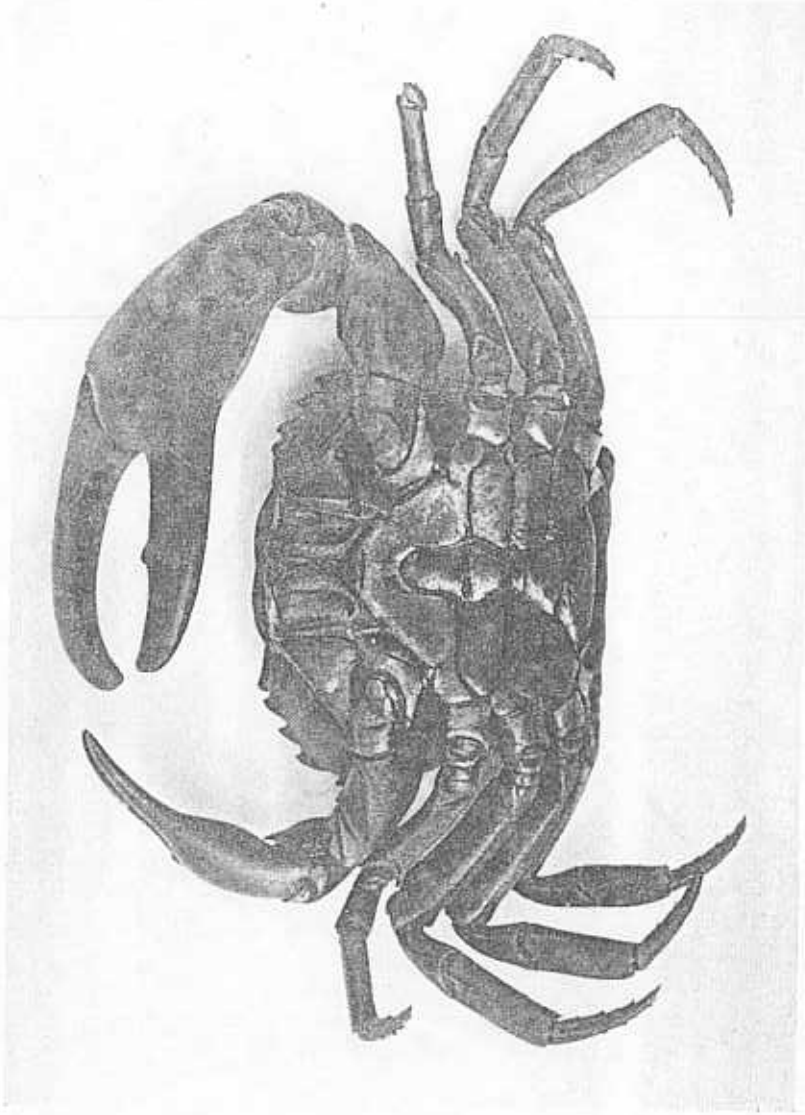
Several specimens of a crab, found to be doing considerable damage to young padi-plants in Kedah and Perlis, were recently (Sept. 1930) collected in North Kedah by Mr. W. N. Sands, Principal Agricultural Officer, Kedah, and sent to the Raffles Museum. I have identified them as *Paratelphusa* (*Paratelphusa*) *sexpunctatum* (Lanch.). This species was described and figured by Lanchester (1) from two females, one from Sai Kau, Nawngchik and the other from Cape Patani, under the name *Potamon* (*Paratelphusa*) *sexpunctatum*. As the male was not available and the present series includes 3 ♂ ♂ I append a description of the salient features.

Carapace. Like that of the female but rather more narrowed behind. The centre punctum of each group of three in both sexes is not so clearly defined as in Lanchester's figure. The measurements of the carapace in all specimens are as follows:—

	♂ ♂			♀ ♀	
	Length mm.	*Breadth* mm.		*Length* mm.	*Breadth* mm.
A.	38	49	D.	39	49
B.	34	43	E.	36	45
C.	33	42	F.	31·5	39·5
			G.	29	37

1. Fishes of the Indo-Australian Archipelago II, 1913, p. 13 (text-figure).

2. Since writing the above I have examined a fresh specimen obtained in Oct. 1930 by the Fisheries Dept. from the Bukit Merah Reservoir, Perak. The fin-counts agree in all respects with the description; the lateral line has 25 scales, and as it is continued on to small scales at the base of the caudal this may be true for the other specimens examined (these were mounted and painted). Total Length 575 mm.



Paratelphusa (Paratelphusa) sexpunctatum (Lanch.).
♂ Slightly enlarged.

Fig. 1. *Paratelphusa* (*Paratelphusa sexpunctatum* (Lanch.) abdomen of adult male. Nat. size.

Abdomen. (Fig. 1). The third segment extends proximally between the bases of the legs, becoming very slightly narrower distally, edges convex; the fourth segment narrows rapidly by about half its proximal width, edges slightly convex proximally, concave distally; the narrowing continues more gradually through the fifth segment and slightly on to the sixth which, after a slight decrease, expands considerably; the seventh segment narrows gradually to a rounded tip.

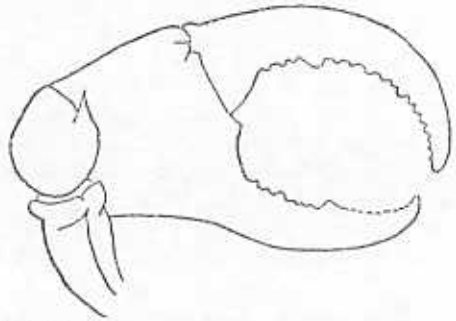


Fig. 2. *P.* (*P.*) *sexpunctatum*. Left chela of adult male. Nat. size.

Cheliped. (Fig. 2). Very much enlarged in the male; fingers not much longer than the palm; dactylus strongly curved, with a greatly enlarged tooth rather nearer the proximal end, another not so large half-way between this and the tip, interspaces with small teeth; small teeth with one greatly enlarged about the middle of the fixed finger. Length of the hand in the males: A. 57 mm.; B. 44 mm.; C. 43 mm.

In all specimens, both male and female, the left cheliped is enlarged; in Lanchester's figure (1) the right cheliped is bigger. There is a sharp subterminal spine on the upper surface of the merus of either cheliped in both sexes, characterizing the sub-genus as defined by Alcock (2).

This species is related to *P. sinensis* M.-Edw., which ranges from Burma to China, and was recorded by Lanchester (3) from Singora, Tale Sap, where it was taken by the Skeat expedition. Like that species, it has a subterminal spine on the meri of all the walking-legs.

The crabs of the genus *Paratelphusa* have been found damaging young rice plants, and in some cases the bunds, in the Netherlands East Indies (4), Burma (5), India (6) and Ceylon (7) in addition to Malaya. Dammerman (4) gives as their enemies the otter (*Lutra* sp.), king-fishers, some birds of prey, and water bwls. A control measure suitable for use in padi fields "consists in pouring a small quantity of carbon bisulphide in the holes and closing them", a method also recommended by Wagle (5). Ghosh (6) and Lord (7) have successfully tried trapping the crabs in earthenware pots[1] with mouths about half the maximum diameter of the pots. The pots are sunk until their rims are about 2 in. or 3 in. below the water-level, and are placed in position a few days afer sowing or transplanting. Rice bran is recommended as the most satisfactory bait, and is placed in the pots in the evening. Lord also mentions that the crabs are most easily caught after heavy rain which tempts them out of their holes. Mr. Sands reports *P. sexpunctatum* as "becoming active and breeding rapidly with the advent of wet conditions". The young do not pass through an active zoœa stage but leave the abdomen of the mother when fully developed. This probably accounts for their sudden appearance when rain has produced suitable pools.

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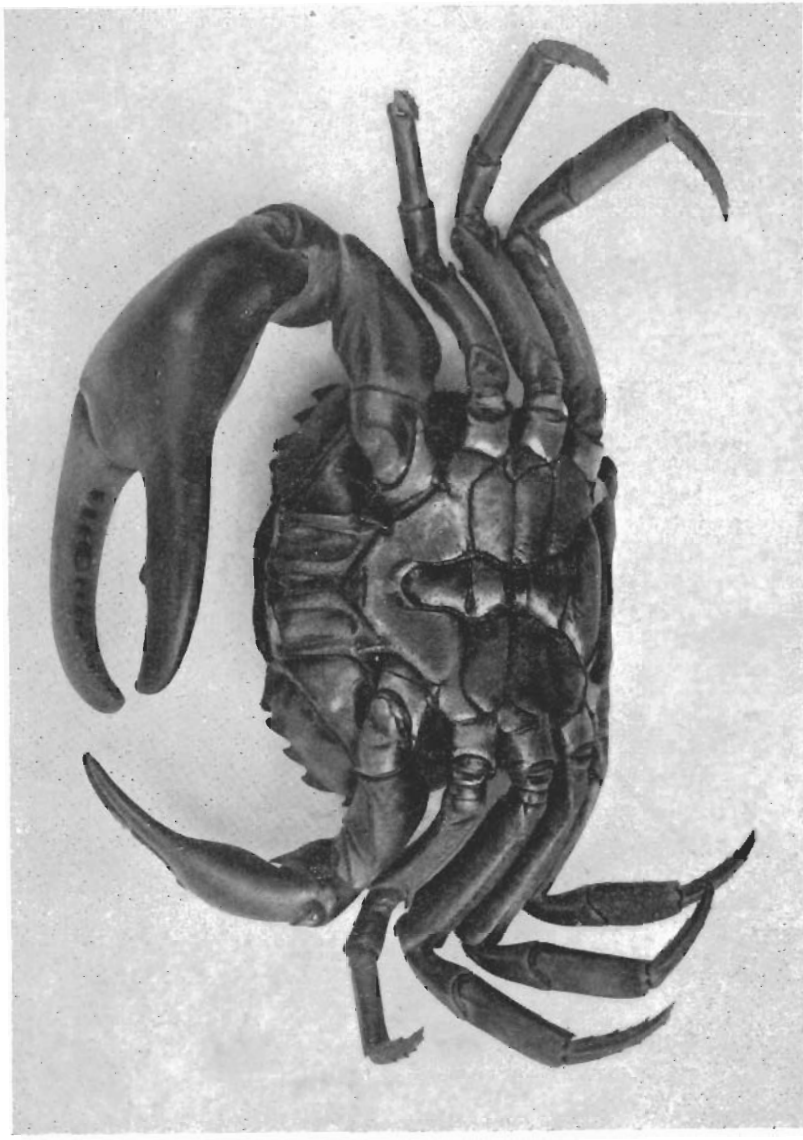
[1] A method since applied in Malaya by Mr. Sands (8).



Paratelphusa (Paratelphusa) sexpunctatum (Lanch.).
♂ Slightly enlarged.