

10. chela height—distance between dorsal and ventral borders measured at its widest part (at distal edge of palm from junction of palm and fixed finger);
11. second ambulatory dactyl length—measured along dorsal surface;
12. second ambulatory dactyl width—distance across widest part of segment (beyond its base);
13. third ambulatory dactyl length—measured along dorsal edge;
14. third ambulatory dactyl width—distance across widest part of segment (about midway along its length);
15. abdominal segment 5 length—measured along midline;
16. abdominal segment 5 width—distance across segment at widest part;
17. abdominal segment 6 length—measured along midline;
18. abdominal segment 6 width—distance across segment at widest part.

The shape of the first pleopod of the male was also studied in all species.

In the lists of material examined given below the measurement given is the carapace length. Measurements were made with dial calipers to the nearest 0.1mm. Drawings were completed with the aid of a camera lucida. The number following the institution's abbreviation in the lists of material examined is the registered number of the specimen.

SYSTEMATICS

Family RANINIDAE Dana, 1852.

Reptant decapods with carapace remarkably elongate but not covering abdominal terga, the first four or five of which lie exposed in dorsal view. Last pair of legs raised in dorsal plane of body. Antennae large; antennules large but not folding into fossae. Thoracic sternum broad anteriorly, very narrow or linear posteriorly; posterior thoracic epimera largely exposed by reduction of branchiostegite. Third maxillipeds narrow, completely covering buccal cavern, palp concealed in rest; exopodite little longer than ischium (after Alcock, 1896; and Rathbun, 1937; modified).

REMARKS. The above diagnosis includes only external morphological features.

The Raninidae have historically been placed within the Oxystomata (which also includes the dorippids, leucosiids and calappids) (Alcock, 1896). The family was separated as a subtribe of the Brachyura—the Gymnopleura—distinct from the Oxystomata—by Bourne (1922) in a detailed account of the morphology and anatomy of the members of this group of crabs; recent classifications have accepted Bourne's subtribe (Rathbun, 1937; Sakai, 1965).

A large number of fossil genera are known (Balss, 1957) and several genera have fossil as well as Recent species; *Lyreidus* is among these. Most of the fossil species are known from fragments only (Glaessner, 1960). Keys to most of the Recent genera represented in the Indo-west Pacific are given by Alcock (1896) and Sakai (1937) and nothing is to be gained by repeating them here. In these keys *Lyreidus* is grouped with the genus *Raninoides* H. Milne Edwards. Both have very reduced last ambulatory legs, small antennary peduncles and flagella but differ in the relative width of the fronto-orbital border (interorbital width) and the relative lengths of the merus and ischium of the third maxillipeds. In addition, most species of *Raninoides* have several sets of spines along the fronto-orbital border, and the dactyls of the first and second, as well as the third, ambulatory legs are markedly expanded near the base; in both these features there are differences from *Lyreidus* species. Finally, both genera share with other raninids a markedly flattened chela which is much wider along the distal border of the palm than at the proximal junction with the carpus.