

indistinct furrow extends along the mid-dorsal line of the carapace from the median ocular tubercle to the middle of the posterior margin. Length of carapace in the middle line up to 2.5 mm., maximum breadth up to 3.5 mm.

*Abdomen*.—Rounded; usually plump.

*Arms*.—Relatively short in immature specimens and of much greater but somewhat variable length in mature ones; femur up to 5.5 mm. in length. Armature as in the genus *Charinus*.

*Walking-legs*.—Tarsi four-jointed; first tarsal joint (exclusive of metatarsus) of the anterior, middle, and posterior walking-legs respectively  $\frac{1.2}{7.5}$ ,  $\frac{1.3}{8}$ , and  $\frac{1.4}{8}$  of the total length of the three remaining tarsal joints; the metatarsus scarcely exceeding the sum of the tarsal joints in length.

*Colour*.—Somewhat brownish below, almost black above except

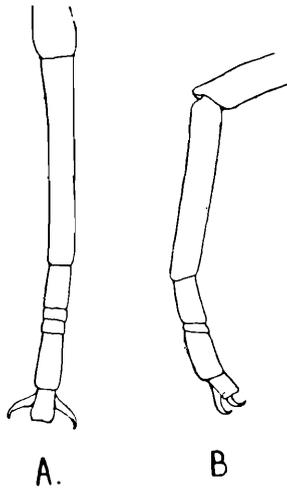


FIG. 2.—Tarsus of last leg of *Charinus* and *Charinides*,  $\times 20$ .

A. *Charinus seychellarum*,  $\sigma$ .

B. *Charinides bengalensis*,  $\sigma$ .

for the various spines and hairs on the appendages and carapace, the chelicerae, and the sunk margin of and somewhat variable markings on the carapace, which vary from dull reddish to almost black in life, but become much brighter and more conspicuous after the specimen has been soaked in spirit for a short time.

♀ Differs from the male chiefly in having very much shorter arms resembling in their proportions those of immature specimens of both sexes. Femur about 2 mm. in length only.

## II.—A PRELIMINARY NOTE ON A NEW SARAX FROM SINGAPORE.

Mr. Ridley, of the Botanical Gardens, Singapore, has very kindly sent me a number of small "scorpion-spiders." They were

found under bricks among dead leaves at the edge of a wood in the gardens and prove to belong to the genus *Sarax*, Sim. Only two species of this genus have as yet been described, *S. sarawakensis*, Thor., recorded from various islands between (and including) the Andamans and the Solomon Isles; and *S. brachydactylus*, Sim., from the Philippines. The specimens sent by Mr. Ridley closely resemble the former species, and but for the presence among them of ovigerous females it would be difficult in the present state of knowledge to be certain that they were distinct; for otherwise, in spite of their uniformity, their maturity might have been doubted. But the fact that ovigerous females from Singapore are only about three-quarters as large (in diameter) as the type of Thorell's Bornean species (concerning the maturity of which, moreover, there appears to have been some doubt) is in itself sufficient to distinguish the two; and this difference is found to be associated with differences in the proportions that the lengths of the several femora bear to the width of the carapace.

The Singapore specimens and Thorell's description of the type of *S. sarawakensis* taken by themselves certainly indicate that full separate specific rank should be accorded to the former; for the differences between the two are quite as great as those between several recognized species of Tarantulidae. But an examination of two specimens of *Sarax* from Borneo (kindly lent by Mr. Moulton of the Sarawak Museum) and one from Narcondam Island (Indian Museum collection) shows clearly the necessity of examining good series of specimens from all possible localities before a satisfactory conclusion can be arrived at, a necessity which is no doubt responsible for the inclusion by previous writers of all forms found between the Andamans and the Solomon Isles (and including Singapore) in the one species *sarawakensis*. Provisionally, therefore, it will probably be most convenient to regard the Singapore form as a geographical sub-species only, in order that the term *sarawakensis* may retain its present broad significance. The Singapore form may then be designated *Sarax sarawakensis*, sub-sp. *singaporeae*, nov., and distinguished from *S. sarawakensis*, Thorell, s. str. by its smaller size and the proportionally shorter femora of its antenniform legs. The following are measurements in millimetres of two ovigerous females of the Singapore form (correct to the nearest half millimetre only):—

| Total length. | Length of carapace. | Breadth of carapace. | Length of femur of arms. | Length of femur of 1st (antenniform) legs. | Length of femur of 2nd legs. | Length of femur of 3rd legs. | Length of femur of 4th legs. |
|---------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|--|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 5.5           | 2.0                 | 2.5                  | 1.0                      | 3.5  | 2.5                          | 3.0                          | 2.5                          |
| 6.0           | 2.5                 | 3.0                  | 1.5                      | 4.0  | 3.0                          | 3.0                          | 3.0                          |

A more elaborate description (with figures) will be published later; and in the meantime the loan of further specimens of *Sarax* from any localities will help me greatly in my attempt to elucidate the various geographical forms of this genus.