

RECTIFICATION OF EVENTS LEADING TO DISCOVERY AND
DESCRIPTION OF *NEOGLYPHEA INOPINATA* FOREST &
DE SAINT LAURENT, 1975

BY

RAFAEL LEMAITRE¹⁾

Smithsonian Institution, Department of Invertebrate Zoology, National Museum of Natural History,
MRC 163, P.O. BOX 37012, Washington, D.C. 20013-7012, U.S.A.

In the recent obituary of Fenner A. Chace, Jr. (Lemaitre, 2005), I summarized the events leading to the discovery of *Neoglyphea inopinata* Forest & de Saint Laurent, 1975 on pages 623 and 624. For this I relied on my own memory of informal conversations over the years, and correspondence with various colleagues contemporaneous with Fenner. Regrettably, I discovered after the obituary was published that the story I put together from all these sources was in part erroneous, and I wish now to rectify this important piece of carcinological history to set the record straight. During the preparation of the obituary, I was unable to contact one of the primary players, Jacques Forest, who in a letter to me after the obituary appeared, corrected the unintended inaccuracies of my story. Using J. Forest's own words, the discovery of that remarkable species can now be reported truthfully, as it happened back in 1975. The following is his French text (extracted from his letter to me of November 17, 2005), followed by my English translation.

“En mars 1975, Fenner soumettait à Michèle [de Saint Laurent], qui séjournait à Washington [D.C.] depuis la fin de l'année précédente pour étudier la collection de Thalassinides, ce crustacé recueilli par l'“Albatross” en 1908 et resté non identifié. Intriguée par ce spécimen, elle m'envoyait une série de dessins qui me laissèrent également perplexe. Un peu plus tard, j'avais l'occasion d'aller à New York, puis à Washington, et là, d'examiner avec Michèle le crustacé en question. C'est alors que je me rappelais des dessins de Glyphéides publiés en 1969 par Glaessner dans le “Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology”. Ce souvenir a été le point de départ de l'identification du spécimen, confirmée par les recherches que nous avons menées à la Smithsonian, nous référant à des travaux de paléontologie et à du matériel fossile. C'est alors que nous avons soumis nos conclusions à Fenner, en présence

¹⁾ e-mail: LemaitreR@si.edu

me semble-t-il de Ray Manning. Ils ont approuvé notre identification. Fenner nous a confié l'étude de ce crustacé. Nous lui avons proposé de décrire avec nous le nouveau genre, nouvelle espèce, mais il a refusé, considérant que la découverte ne revenait qu'à Michèle et à moi et que, comme vous le relatez, deux auteurs suffisaient pour des taxa aussi important. Il acceptait néanmoins de signer, après la parution de la description, un article signalant la découverte (dans *Science*)."

"In March of 1975, Fenner showed Michèle [de Saint Laurent], who was in Washington [D.C.] since the end of the previous year studying the collection of thalassinids, this still unidentified crustacean collected on the "Albatross" in 1908. Intrigued by this specimen, she sent to me a series of illustrations that left me equally perplexed. Some time later, I had the occasion to go to New York, then to Washington, and examine there with Michèle this crustacean. It was then that I recalled some glypheid figures published in 1969 by Glaessner in the "Treatise of Invertebrate Paleontology". That recall was the starting point for the identification of the specimen, confirmed by studies conducted at the Smithsonian, referring to paleontological works and fossil materials. It was then that we submitted our conclusions to Fenner, as I recall in the presence of Ray Manning. They agreed with our identification. Fenner trusted us with the study of this crustacean. We proposed to him to describe with us this new genus, new species, but he refused, considering that the discovery should be attributed to Michèle and me, and that, as you mentioned, two authors were enough for such an important taxon. However, he did accept co-authorship with us, after the description appeared, of an article (in *Science*) announcing the discovery."

We trust with this account the correct sequence of events has been rendered properly.

LITERATURE CITED

- LEMAITRE, R., 2005. Remarks on the life and works of Fenner A. Chace, Jr. (1908-2004), with a list of his taxa and complete bibliography. *Crustaceana*, **78** (5): 621-639.