

SHORT NOTES

I. A third edible marine algae from Thai waters.

Among the 194 genera of seaweed existing in Thai waters only a few have been utilised and only two genera found locally were known to be valued as food. These two, *Geladium* and *Gracilaria*, have been collected and exported commercially.

Returning recently from a survey trip to the southern part of Thailand a third genus of algae was found for sale in fresh form in Songkhla market. Specimens were bought and their origin traced. Subsequently wild specimens were collected in a rocky habitat at the foot of Khao Kao Seng near Songkhla. This third genus, *Porphyra*, is purplish red. It grows in clumps attached to fully exposed rocks that are splashed constantly by the waves. A paper has been published in Thai giving greater detail.

Jinda Thiemmedh.

II. The Chinese Mitten Crab (*Eriocheir sinensis* Milne-Edwards)

It was on October 25, 1968 that two live specimens of crabs, illegally imported by a Bangkok Chinese merchant, were kindly presented to Kasetsart University by The Vice-Director, Mr. Swasdi Uthaisri of the Department of Customs. They are identified as *Eriocheir sinensis* Milne-Edwards.

The crab is reported to be a native of China. Its habitat is somewhere north of Shanghai. The crab is easily recognized by the thick mass of hairs on the claws, from which the name is derived.

According to Hynes (1960), this crab was first noticed in Europe in 1912 and was found to become a pest because of its habit of burrowing in river banks. By 1935 it was spreading in all the Baltic countries and in France.

Elsewhere the author has presented some important characters of the imported crabs, which would upset the delicate balance of