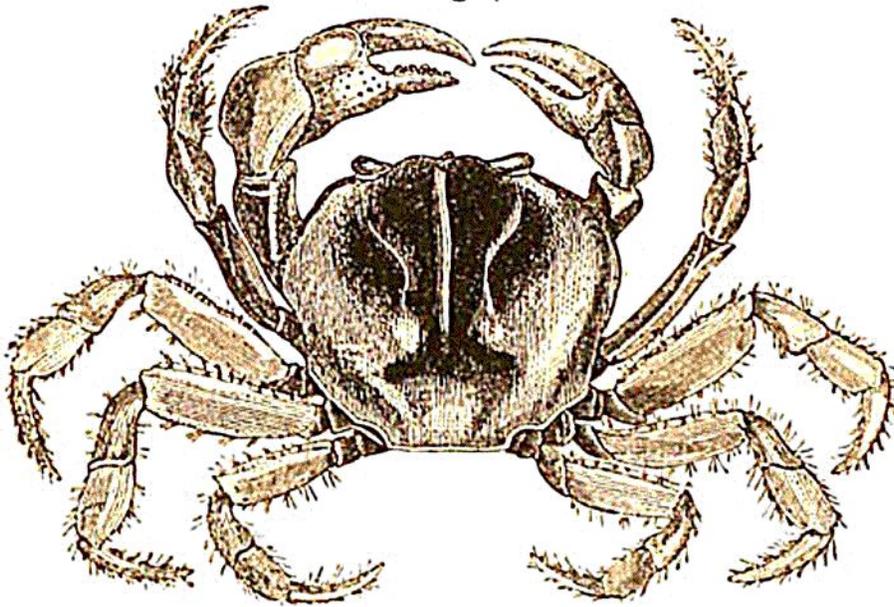


of the *Horseman*,\* which he says runs so fast that it is not easy to overtake it.† Olivier found this account true of those he saw on the coast of Syria; and Bosc observed a species‡ in Carolina, which he had some trouble to overtake on horseback and shoot with a pistol. These horsemen crabs are found only in warm climates, where they inhabit sandy spots near the shore, or the mouths of rivers. They make burrows in the sand, to which they retreat when alarmed, and in which they pass the night.

Fig. 71.

Land-crab of the West Indies (*Gegarcinus ruricola*).

Another kind of land-crab § is distinguished by the extraordinary disproportion of its claws; one of them, sometimes the left, and sometimes the right, being enormously large, while the other is very small, and often concealed, so that the animal appears single-handed. This formation, however, is not without its use, for, when retired into its burrow, it employs this large claw to stop up the mouth of it, which secures it from intrusion, and this organ is in readiness to seize such animals as form its food and come within its reach.

\* Ἴππευς. Gr.

† Hist. Anim. l. iv. c. 2.

‡ Ocypode Hippeus, probably *Cancer Cursor*. L.§ *Gelasimus vocans*.