

that on a voyage, during which careful and systematic use was made of the surface-net, pelagic forms would have been captured in large numbers. Such, however, was not the case; the genus *Tremoctopus*, for instance, was preserved on only four occasions, *Ommastrephes* on five, *Onychia* on six, and *Cranchia* on three or four.<sup>1</sup> Mr. Murray informs me that this is to be accounted for by the astonishing activity of these animals, which is so great that they were only captured when the vessel was sailing rapidly, a condition in general unfavourable to the use of the tow-net.

“Professor Steenstrup has divided both the Octopod and Decapod Cephalopoda into two groups, *littorales* and *pelagici*, and as in so many other divisions of the animal kingdom, while pelagic forms belong to but few species, each of which has a wide range of distribution, littoral genera are represented by very many species, each confined within a narrow area.

“The latter portion of this statement was well illustrated by the genus *Octopus*; of which almost every resting-place of the Expedition seems to have furnished a distinct type: about twelve of which belong to species hitherto undescribed. The littoral habits of this type are most clearly demonstrated, for out of twenty-eight species collected, sixteen came, not from dredging stations, but from the shore collections; and of those obtained by the dredge or trawl, only two were found in depths exceeding 500 fathoms, and there is, of course, no conclusive proof that these were actually brought up from the depth reached by the dredge.

“Indeed the difficulty of deciding whether the dredge really captured at the bottom the animals eventually found in it, or whether they became entangled in it during its upward or downward progress, was felt to be extremely great in the case of the Cephalopoda, for only in one or two instances were such structural peculiarities found as appeared to demonstrate that the animals were really abyssal in their mode of life.

“Many very interesting species of *Sepia* were captured; some of which have been hitherto known only by their shells. All the specimens of this genus brought home by the Challenger Expedition (including some ten new species) were obtained between Stations 163 and 232, that is to say, during the cruise from the eastern coast of Australia through the Malay Archipelago to Japan; a strong confirmation of the fact that the Indo-Pacific region is beyond all question the metropolis of this genus, for out of some thirty species previously known, no less than twelve are from this portion of the globe, although it has been much less explored than many others.

“Among pelagic Cephalopods very noteworthy additions have been made to the genus *Cirroteuthis*, which has hitherto been represented only by comparatively few specimens from the coast of Greenland, the largest being one in the Copenhagen Museum, which does not exceed 18 inches in extreme length. During the cruise in the Southern

<sup>1</sup> *Cranchia* was very frequently obtained in the surface-nets, but, like many other common surface forms, was not always preserved.—J. M.