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will best be done by briefly pointing out the peculiarities in the external and internal organisation of the Elasipoda. The shallow water Holothurians have not been at all overlooked, for a large collection of such forms was brought home from different localities; but these Holothurians, being mostly already known, are not of sufficient interest to deserve mention here. However, to give an idea of what the Challenger Expedition has done with regard to the shallow water forms, it may be noted that a great number of new species has been dredged, previously known species have been found in many new localities, and several interesting biological observations made.

"Only three Elasipoda were previously known, viz., *Elpidia glacialis*, *Kolga hyalina*, and *Irpa abyssicola*, all obtained from the North Atlantic Ocean and the Arctic Sea; but the Challenger Expedition has so far extended our knowledge of this peculiar group of animals, that no less than fifty-two species and three varieties, divided into nineteen genera, have been described.[1] Only eight of these species were found at depths less than 1000 fathoms—not a single one from a depth less than 50 fathoms—the remainder being

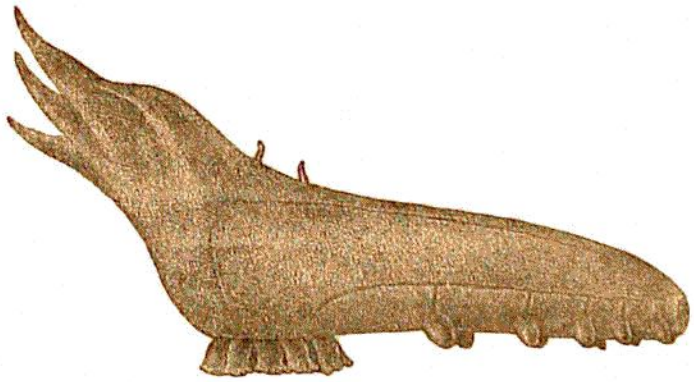

FIG. 110.—*Peniagone wyvillii*, Théel.

obtained from depths exceeding 1000 fathoms. The greatest depth at which any living Holothurid has been obtained is 2900 fathoms. The Elasipoda are distributed throughout all seas, especially *Oneirophanta mutabilis*, which is almost cosmopolitan. Therefore there seems to be every reason for the opinion that the Elasipoda are highly characteristic of the deep-sea fauna, for, as above pointed out, this order is almost unrepresented in the shallow water fauna, and, besides, presents forms perhaps the most aberrant met with in any group of deep-sea animals. With regard to their geographical distribution, the peculiar fact may be noted that some species are obtained from very distant localities. Thus, for instance, *Elpidia glacialis* occurs in the North Atlantic Ocean and the Arctic Sea, but was also obtained by the Challenger Expedition at Station 160, south of Australia, and *Lætmogone violacea* was first dredged by the same Expedition close to Sydney, and lately it has been found in great abundance by the 'Knight Errant,' between the Færöe Islands and the coast of Scotland.

"Thus the Elasipoda represent the deep-sea forms among the Holothurioidea, while

[1] Zool. Chall. Exp., part xiii., 1881.

http://19thcenturyscience.org/HMSC/HMSC-Reports/1885-Narrative/README.htm