

that even in the driest season (November, December, January, and February) rain falls on an average twelve days in each month, the mean fall for the month being 8 inches; whilst in the rainy season (May, June, July, August, and September), rain falls on an average twenty-one days in each month, the mean fall per month being 27 inches. The northwest monsoon appears to commence about November, and lasts until April, but only in January, February, and March do steady north and northwest winds prevail. The southeast monsoon sets in in May, and lasts until the beginning of September; in the other months the winds are variable.

During the stay at Amboina the pinnace was engaged several days in dredging in depths from 15 to 130 fathoms. Among the new species obtained were two Brachyurous Crabs, referred to in the following notes by Mr. Edward J. Miers, of the British Museum, who is preparing a Report on the Brachyura collected by the Expedition:—

*The Brachyura.*—“The Brachyura collected during the voyage of H.M.S. Challenger are of much interest, not only because many of the new species are remarkable for beauty of form and structure, but also by reason of the additional facts relating to the distribution of several already described, which a study of the collection enables us to record. The groups richest in new genera and species are the *Oxyrhyncha* (*Maiioidea*) and *Oxystomata* (*Leucosiidea*), and to these belong most of the new forms collected at depths exceeding 100 fathoms. The *Cyclometopa* (*Cancroidea*) and *Catometopa* (*Grapsoida*) are for the most part terrestrial, littoral, or shallow-water species, but exceptions occur, notably in the genus (or rather sub-genus) *Pilumnoplax*, and among the swimming crabs (Portunidæ). No Brachyurous Crab was brought up in any of the deep-water dredgings at depths exceeding 1000 fathoms; at this depth a small female Crab, nearly allied to or identical with *Ethusa microphthalma*, Smith, was dredged at the Azores (Station 73); and but very few were dredged at depths exceeding 400 fathoms, but between 100 and 400 fathoms occurred nearly all the most interesting new forms in the collection. Sir Wyville Thomson's statement is therefore correct as regards the Challenger Crustacea ‘that the Brachyurous Decapoda appear to be confined almost entirely to comparatively shallow water.’<sup>1</sup>

“In the following brief account of the Brachyura, I have referred, as a general rule, to the more interesting new species in the order in which they were collected. As regards the pelagic species, I need only say that the Gulf Weed Crab, *Nautilograpsus minutus*, occurred not only in the north and northwest Atlantic, and at the Bermudas, West

<sup>1</sup> Voyage of the Challenger, The Atlantic, vol. ii. p. 349. Cf. Rev. A. M. Norman, President's Address in *Trans. Nat. Hist. Soc. North. and Durham*, vol. viii. (pt. 1) p. 42 (1883). But Prof. S. I. Smith, in a note on the Crustacea of the “Albatross” Dredgings in 1883, mentions the occurrence of a new genus of Brachyura allied to *Ethusa* in the N.W. Atlantic, in 1496 to 1735 fathoms (*Amer. Journ. Sci. and Arts*, vol. xxviii. p. 53, 1884; reprinted in *Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist.*, ser. 5, vol. xiv. p. 179, 1884). Since these notes have been in type I have received, in a consignment taken from among the Anomura by Mr. Henderson, some remarkable forms (probably Dorippidæ) dredged at depths varying from 310 to 800 fathoms, and one species dredged at Station 237 in 1875 fathoms.