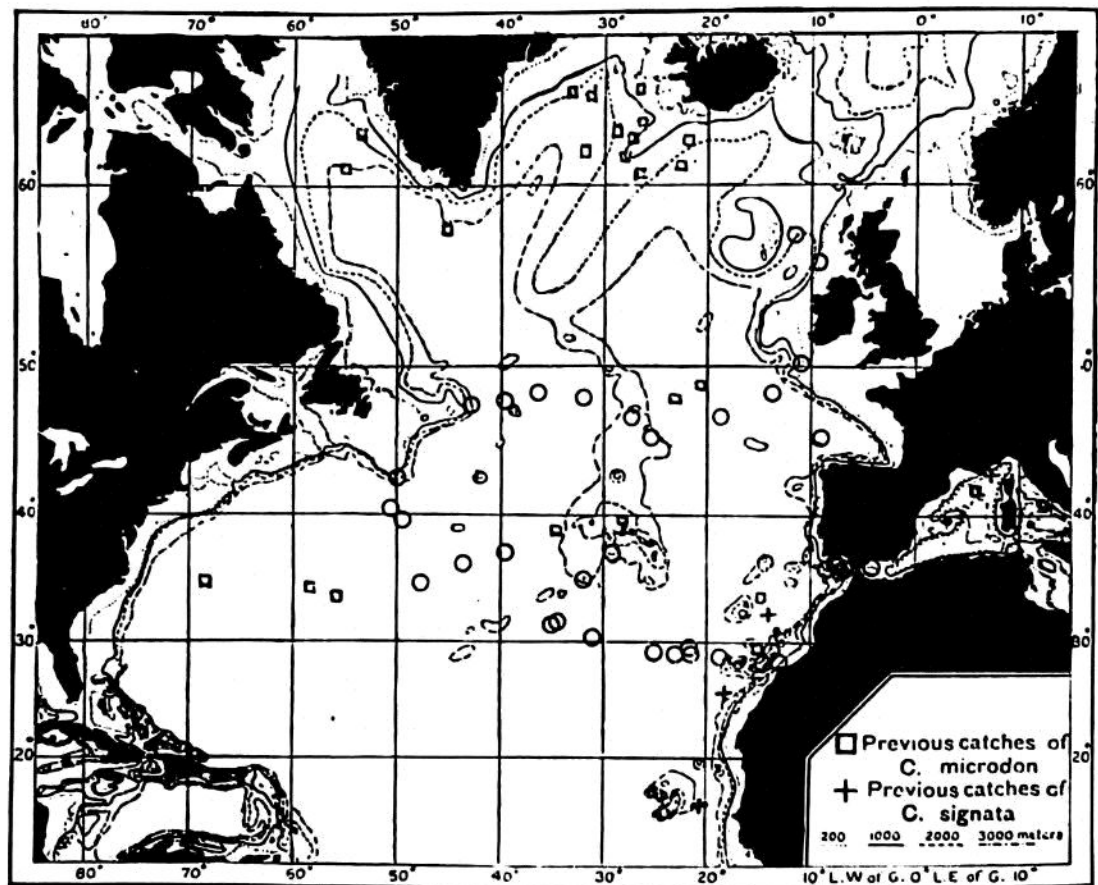


forms in question seems explicable when compared with the distribution of temperature. In Chapter VII. we noted that the temperature along the ocean-floor is very uniform, and consequently the abyssal bottom-fish, like *Macrurus armatus* and *M. filicauda*, have a very wide distribution. Throughout the abyssal region of the Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian Oceans the temperature varies only between 1° and 3° C., and only far south in the Antarctic do we meet with temperatures below 0° C. The water-layer from 5000 or 6000 metres up to 1500



○Cyclothone Signata and microdon
caught by "Michael Sars"

FIG. 476.

metres is practically homogeneous as to temperature, and if it were possible for a fish to swim so far, keeping constantly at a depth of 1500 metres, it might travel from India to Australia, then westwards past the Cape, and northwards through the Atlantic as near to Iceland as the depth would permit, encountering all the way no greater variations in temperature than from 3° to 5° C. Even at a depth of 1000 metres conditions are very uniform, for only in the Indian and North Atlantic Oceans do the temperatures rise to 7° or 8° C.,