

lasted much longer, and consequently extended over a larger tract, but at the same time we can see from this that the deep-sea Actiniæ are by no means exceptionally rare.

The relative abundance of the Actiniæ among the deep-sea fauna is shown by the fact that several species and several specimens of the same species were not unfrequently found at the same station. Station 235 furnished the largest number of individuals, viz., twenty specimens of *Polysiphonia tuberosa* and two colonies of *Epizoanthus parasiticus* were taken at a depth of 565 fathoms. Stations 237 and 300 were distinguished by the diversity of the forms dredged; at the former four specimens of *Cereus spinosus*, two of *Paractis tubulifera*, one of *Porponia robusta*, and one of *Liponema multiporum* were taken at a depth of 1875 fathoms, at the latter one *Corallimorphus profundus*, one *Paractis excavata* and one *Ophiodiscus sulcatus* were taken at 1375 fathoms. The following stations yielded also good results:—Station 299; depth, 2160 fathoms; one *Ophiodiscus annulatus* and one *Polyopis striata*. Station 157; depth, 1950 fathoms; one *Cereus spinosus* and one *Corallimorphus rigidus*. Station 147; depth, 1600 fathoms; one *Bunodes minuta* and one *Sicyonis crassa*.

The stations in shallow water are far behind as regards the results of the dredgings. The only stations worthy of special mention are Station 143, depth 120 fathoms, which contributed two *Halcampa clavus* and one *Leiothealia nymphæa* to the Challenger material; and Station 313, depth 55 fathoms, which contributed three *Antholoba reticulata*, four *Dysactis crassicornis*, and two *Dysactis rhodora*.

As regards the relation in which the fauna of the different depths stand to one another, it may already be safely asserted that the greater the depth, the more the fauna varies from that of the coast. I will make only two divisions, and compare, on the one hand, the Actiniæ from 10–500 fathoms, and on the other, the Actiniæ from 500–2900 fathoms with the known forms essentially belonging to the coast. The first region gives on the whole thirteen species and twelve genera, of which five species and two genera (*Scytophorus* and *Stephanactis*) are new. The remaining twenty-one species and seventeen genera belong to the second region (two genera, *Phellia* and *Stephanactis*, are represented in both divisions), of which not less than twenty species and eleven genera are new. The depths of 500–3000 fathoms are therefore inhabited by entirely different Actiniæ, as even the only species which cannot be considered as new, *Epizoanthus parasiticus*, approached the first region, as it was taken at a depth of 565 fathoms.

The varying character of the deep-sea fauna leads us to the third question already started, viz., has life in the great depths a visible influence on the organisation of the Actiniæ? This influence can be distinctly recognised in many forms, and is shown by the nature of the tentacles which have undergone retrograde formation, and are transformed first into tubes, and afterwards into simple openings in the oral disk. In *Paractis tubulifera* (depth 1875 fathoms) the tentacles have the same constitution as in the majority of Actiniæ, except in one point, that the terminal opening, which is usually