

THE
VOYAGE OF H.M.S. CHALLENGER.

ZOOLOGY.

REPORT on the HOLOTHURIOIDEA dredged by H.M.S. Challenger during
the Years 1873-76. By HJALMAR THÉEL. Part II.

INTRODUCTION.

IN this second part of my work on the HOLOTHURIOIDEA I have not limited my labours to a description of those forms of the Apoda and Pedata which were brought home by the Challenger Expedition, but have added a short exposition of all shallow-water forms hitherto known. It was considered that such a monograph was highly desirable. It should not be forgotten, however, that the difficulties of a monograph are very great, especially in the case of the Holothurioidea, and that larger and smaller gaps must necessarily occur because of the frequent imperfection in the descriptions of many authors. Besides the Challenger collections, I have had at my disposition for comparison the very rich collection of the State Zoological Museum in Stockholm, kindly placed in my hands by Professor S. Lovén, a pretty large collection of tropical forms belonging to the Godeffroy Museum, and divers forms, partly types, from the Mediterranean and Mauritius, for the use of which I feel extremely obliged to Dr. E. von Marenzeller and Professor Karl Möbius.

The examination of the vast harvest brought home by the Challenger Expedition from different regions of the world, from the shore as well as from the abysses of the ocean, shows clearly that those Holothurids which live in the deep sea have two different derivations. The great majority are Elasipoda, which cannot be derived from the present shallow-water fauna, but must have originated from a past type that certainly bore another stamp. On the other hand, so far as can be judged from the results of the