

and then by dragging the sand over their backs by the aid of their long antennæ until they are covered, all but their eyes, which appear above the sand, and suit well the tint of their surroundings. The speckled grey of their surface is common to all the specimens that dwell in shallow water, but often migrants may be found in deeper water, in which the change of colour at first provokes the belief in a distinction of more importance, since with the loss of the speckled appearance they also possess a more slender form, that may be induced through an increase of restless activity in a search for food and from the lessened necessity for hiding from passing dangers.

On the Japanese coast, in the narrow channels that separate the islands, specimens have been taken at from 10 to 12 fathoms, that so closely resemble our European species that we are not able to determine any constant feature of distinction; and in fact the Japanese species more closely resemble those of the shallow waters of our bays than do the specimens taken from deeper water in the same locality.

Not only do we find our common Shrimp, *Crangon vulgaris*, in the seas of Japan, but we also meet with it on the eastern coast of North America, whilst on the western shores as far south as Mexico there is found a species that Dr. Stimpson named *Crangon nigricauda* from its having the sixth somite of the pleon black in colour, but most other observers agree, from a close analytical examination, that it is not distinct from our European species.

Thus it would appear that this familiar form may be found common perhaps to all the sandy shores of the entire northern hemisphere.

According to the observation of specimens brought home by the Challenger the several species of *Nematocarcinus* only differ from one another in the relative length of the projecting rostrum, the numerical value of their dental ornamentation, and the comparative length of their legs, which are found to extend over a considerable space.

The species extend geographically from the line of the southern icy sea-board to the latitude of Japan in the northern hemisphere, and along the line of the Australasian Archipelago from Celebes to the Kermadec Islands, to which I may add that they have been taken in the West Indies by the "Blake" Expedition, and in the Atlantic during the cruise of the "Travailleur."

In all the habitats recorded, the sea-bottom consists of a Diatomaceous or Globigerina ooze, with the exception of the neighbourhood of the Kermadec Islands, where it is recorded as being rocky, although at a short distance off the island a muddy bottom exists.

In the track from south to north, that is from the South Indian Ocean, a great line of current has its course over the area occupied by these animals, running up the eastern coast of Australia, and turning westward among the islands of the Archipelago of New Guinea, Celebes, and the Philippine Islands, turning northward and travelling along the eastern shores of Asia, till it sweeps eastward along the shore of Japan.