

these two areas have been less explored than elsewhere, and are especially deserving of attention at the hands of collectors, but Dr. Vosmaer must surely have overlooked Mr. Carter's *Suberites antarcticus* (cf. p. 201). Unfortunately the Challenger adds no information concerning the Indian Ocean, and this little known field will probably yield a rich harvest to whoever has the good luck to thoroughly investigate it.¹

If we arrange our own seven geographical areas according to the number of species² obtained in each, we arrive at the following result:—Indo-Australian (74 species), South Atlantic (52 species), Southern Ocean (36 species), Patagonian (21 species), North Atlantic (19 species), South Pacific (16 species), North Pacific (7 species).³

Thus of the seven areas the Indo-Australian has proved to be the most prolific and the North Pacific the least so, and with this we must correlate the fact that the waters in the former area are, compared to those of the North Pacific, very shallow.

Of individual stations, however, Station 320 (off the mouth of the Rio de la Plata, 600 fathoms) has yielded by far the richest harvest. No less than 22 species were obtained here, presumably at a single haul of the trawl. These species were all of them new to science and most of them (e.g., *Halichondria latrunculioides*, *Gellius calyx*, *Gellius flabelliformis*, *Tedania massa*, *Esperella lapidiformis*, *Phelloderma radiatum*, *Ciocalypta hyaloderma*, *Latrunculia apicalis* and *Latrunculia brevis*) of great and exceptional interest. This locality, indeed, seems to be a great focus of Monaxonid sponge life, where the conditions must be exceedingly favourable, and where not only is the diversity of species very great, but the individual species attain a high degree of development and a luxuriant growth, some of them (e.g., *Tedania massa*) reaching huge proportions, and being represented in the collection by considerable numbers of specimens.

Simon's Bay, Cape of Good Hope, also proved to be of exceptional interest for the remarkable new species obtained there, for two of which we have been obliged to establish new genera (*Dendropsis* and *Proteleia*), and the seas in the neighbourhood of Port Jackson also yielded a very rich harvest, including, amongst a total of 17 species, such remarkable forms as *Siphonochalina intermedia*, *Esperella murrayi*, *Phakellia flabellata*, *Spirastrella papillosa*, and others. In these two cases, however, we do not know how much time and trouble was spent upon the collection of the material, so that it is hardly fair to compare them with individual stations where (presumably) only a single haul was taken.

Very interesting and novel results were also obtained at stations in the Pacific, Atlantic, and Southern Oceans where the depth exceeded 1000 fathoms, but in these cases the number of species obtained at each locality was always very small, the greatest

¹ Cf., however, the Report on the Zoological Collections of H.M.S. "Alert," Brit. Mus., 1884; and also Mr. Carter's papers on Sponges from the Gulf of Manaar, *Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist.*, ser. 5, vol. vi. p. 35 and ser. 5, vol. vii. p. 361.

² For the sake of simplicity we here include varieties as distinct species.

³ For the localities included by us in each area, *vide* Chart and Table of Geographical and Bathymetrical Range.