

except for one species of *Antedon* at the equatorial island Rolas. The only *Actinometra* common to both sides of the Atlantic occurs at St. Paul's Rocks, and a few Caribbean species both of this genus and of *Antedon* are common along the South American coast as far south as Cape Frio (lat. 23° 1' S.); while in mid-Atlantic *Antedon* was dredged in moderate depths near Tristan da Cunha and Ascension respectively.

Closely allied to the North Atlantic species are those occurring at Kerguelen and Heard Island, together with a couple of forms inhabiting the Strait of Magellan. This Southern Ocean has also yielded *Promachocrinus*, the unique *Thaumatocrinus*, and at 2600 fathoms a minute *Antedon* which was also found at 2900 fathoms in the North Pacific.

Various Comatulæ have been obtained at Simon's Bay, Natal, Madagascar, Zanzibar, Mauritius, St. Helena, Rodriguez, the Red Sea, the Seychelles and Ceylon, with a solitary species at Kurrachee, and in the Bay of Bengal. It is curious, however, that none were found by Mr G. C. Bourne on the coral reefs of the Chagos group. But the region in which Comatulæ are most abundant is the great Eastern Archipelago, which may be roughly described as a triangular area reaching 100° from east to west and 65° from north to south, with its angles at Ceylon, Japan, and the Kermadec Islands. Within this large area, which includes the Challenger Stations 170 to 236, Comatulæ occur in the most bewildering profusion. But, so far as I know, not one has been found on the coasts of New Zealand, although *Eudiocrinus* and a ten-armed *Antedon* were obtained by the Challenger at Station 169, within a comparatively small distance of the East Cape of the North Island. The Challenger's dredgings between the Admiralty Islands and Japan were among the deepest of the whole cruise, ranging between 1100 and 4475 fathoms, and no Comatulæ were met with between the equator and lat. 35° N. Three species were obtained on the green mud off the Japanese coast between 345 and 775 fathoms, and one in 2900 fathoms at Station 244 in the North Pacific. This form, *Antedon abyssicola*, is the deepest *Comatula* known.

From Station 244 until the Straits of Magellan were entered, the dredgings of the Challenger yielded no *Comatula* at all, a fact which is the more interesting because almost the same statement holds good for the Ophiurids.<sup>1</sup>

Single species of *Antedon* are known from the Sandwich Islands and Chile, and of *Actinometra* from Tahiti and Peru; but except for these and for the two in the Strait of Magellan, I know of no *Comatula* in the Pacific east of long. 150° E., not even on the western shores of North America. *Antedon rhomboidea* and *Antedon magellanica*, if they can be called Pacific species at all, are the only ones in that ocean south of lat. 40° S. None occur in New Zealand nor in Tasmanian waters. These two Magellan species are therefore somewhat isolated, as on entering the Atlantic the Challenger dredged no Comatulæ until reaching Station 320, in 600 fathoms, where three ten-armed species of *Antedon* were obtained. The Falkland Islands, however, seem to have yielded nothing.

<sup>1</sup> Zool. Chall. Exp., 1882, part xiv. p. 309.