bifurcation of the equatorial current has not always been situated exactly off Cape St. Roque, but sometimes to the north of it, so here we meet with a general resemblance to Caribbean fauna, and with certain remarkable forms which are common to both. The Magellanic, South African, and South Australian provinces owe their existence to the westerly cold currents of the Antarctic. The Indo-Pacific province owes its wide extension to the general easterly currents of the Indo-Pacific Ocean, which reach westwards as far as Africa, and on the north to Japan, where they furnish the Kuro Siwa, which probably peoples the greater number of the North Pacific Oceanic Islands. The Indo-Antarctic fauna is possibly the remnant of one once associated with that of an Antarctic continent, now preserved in isolation by its remoteness from all other areas.

The complete record kept by the Challenger of both successful and unsuccessful dredgings enables us to form some estimate of the relative richness in forms of the different distributional areas. In the following table the relation is given between the number of successful and unsuccessful dredgings for each of the three great oceans traversed by the Challenger :—

	Total Number of Dredgings.	Number of Successful Dredgings.	Per cent. of Successful Dredgings.
Atlantic, ...	129	14	10·9
Indo-Antarctic, . . .	28	4	14·3
Pacific, ...	120	21	17·5

In the next table the relative richness of the same areas in species is given, the same species being counted twice when it occurs in different dredgings, which is, however, very seldom :—

	Total Number of Dredgings.	Number of Species.	Per cent. of Species.
Atlantic, ...	129	15	11·63
Indo-Antarctic, ...	28	7	25
Pacific, ...	120	42	36·6

The relative richness of the three areas, as given in the last table, may be approximately represented by the following proportion :—

Atlantic : Indo-Antarctic : Pacific = 1 : 2 : 3.