Beyond 200 fathoms the number of species rapidly falls off, as shown both by the Challenger results and those of other expeditions; from the sum total of observations we obtain the following proportion:—Number of species obtained from 0 to 50 : that from 201 to 1000 : that from 1001 and over = 100 : 35 : 7·4.

Certain families enjoy a wide bathymetrical range, as for instance the Tetillidæ, which extend from 0 to 1000 fathoms, as many species being recorded from 0 to 50 as from 50 to 1000 fathoms.

Others are more restricted, either affecting deeper water, as the Theneidæ, or shallower, as the Stellettidæ. The former family, with the exception of a single genus, doubtfully assigned to it (*Placortis*), is confined to continental or abyssal depths, an equal number ranging from 51 to 200 fathoms and from 201 to 1000. The genus *Thenea* is the characteristically deep-water genus of the Tetractinellida, the shallowest water from which it has yet been recorded being 78 fathoms, the deepest 1913 fathoms. The Stellettidæ are usually found in water under 50 fathoms deep, the greatest depth attained (250 to 400 fathoms) is that recorded by Weltner for the curiously specialised *Tribrachium schmidtii*, which would thus seem to possess a wide range, since it was obtained by the Challenger in from 7 to 20 fathoms off Bahia.

The Geodidæ, with a wider range than the Stellettidæ, are also commoner in deeper water (compare table on p. 378).

The Lithistida are more limited in range than the Choristida, seldom occurring either in such shallow or such deep water as the latter, the minimum recorded depth is 7½ fathoms (*Corallistes typus*, *fide* O. Schmidt), the maximum 1075 fathoms (*Azorica pfeifferæ*, Challenger), the greatest number of occurrences are recorded from continental depths. Since the bathymetrical distribution of the Lithistida is regarded as of some importance by the palæontologist I add a more exact discussion of this subject. In the following table are given the various depths from which Lithistids have been obtained, with the number of times from each :—

| 0–50 Fathoms. | 51–100 Fathoms. | 101–150 Fathoms. | 151–250 Fathoms. | 251–350 Fathoms. | 351–450 Fathoms. | 451–1075 Fathoms. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 at 7½<br>1 „ 17<br>1 „ 18<br>1 „ 33<br>2 „ 45 | 1 at 56<br>9 „ 65<br>1 „ 86<br>2 „ 100 | 1 at 101<br>1 „ 103<br>2 „ 114<br>1 „ 124<br>1 „ 125<br>1 „ 127<br>1 „ 128<br>1 „ 129<br>1 „ 131<br>1 „ 135<br>7 „ 140 | 1 at 168<br>1 „ 180<br>1 „ 211<br>1 „ 212<br>1 „ 220<br>1 „ 240 | 1 at 270<br>3 „ 292<br>2 „ 315<br>1 „ 350 | 4 at 374<br>1 „ 435 | 1 at 805<br>1 „ 1075 |
| 6 „ 27 | 13 „ 71 | 18 „ 126 | 6 „ 205 | 7 „ 303 | 5 „ 386 | 2 „ 940 |