

In the meantime I found many opportunities of continuing my researches into the Siphonophoræ during the numerous journeys which I undertook for the purpose of completing my *System der Medusen*, and to which I made some reference in 1879 in the preface to that monograph. I also collected much valuable material in the different museums which I visited for the same purpose. A further supply of specimens, and among them many new and instructive forms, were received from various travellers, and notably from Captain Heinrich Rabbe of Bremen. Lastly my journey to India furnished me with a long wished-for opportunity of becoming acquainted with the rich though little known Siphonophoral fauna of the Indian Ocean; on the journey out to Ceylon (*via* Bombay), on my return home (*via* Socotra), and especially in the expeditions which I made from Belligemma and Matura, I observed a number of new genera, some of which were exceedingly interesting (November 1881 to March 1882). At the same time I was able to extend my earlier observations upon the development and metamorphosis of the Siphonophoræ.

Valuable systematic contributions were also derived from the study of the excellent original drawings and the manuscripts of Mertens, of which Brandt gave a short account in 1835. I am highly indebted to Professor Alexander Strauch in St. Petersburg for the opportunity of examining these drawings which Mertens took in 1827 from living Siphonophoræ in the North Pacific, and which, unfortunately, have never been published; they are among the best and most life-like representations of the class that have ever been produced.

I take this opportunity of expressing my best thanks to those gentlemen who have assisted me in this investigation, especially to those travellers and directors of museums who have furnished me with material. By their aid I have been enabled to extend our knowledge of this group, and by the discovery of new morphological types to bring it to a certain degree of completeness. I am especially indebted to my honoured friend, Dr. John Murray, who with the greatest liberality offered to me all the Siphonophoræ collected by himself, and gave me permission to incorporate my own rich materials in this Monograph. My sincerest thanks are due also to the excellent artist, Mr. Adolph Giltsch, who, aided by his morphological interest and unwearying care, executed the chromo-lithographic Plates of this Report with such perfection, that they will give a complete idea of this most wonderful class of animals.