their abrupt heads, and sometimes with their flukes in the air. A school of other whales, probably the "caaing-whale," was also seen.

At Station 53 we reached a lesser depth of water, namely 2615 to 2865 metres, and had, accordingly, arrived at the slope rising from the deep basin of the Atlantic to the plateau of the Azores. A sample from the bottom showed much pumice, pteropod shells, and a large percentage of carbonate of lime, with siliceous spicules of sponges and radiolaria.

We shot the big trawl with 6400 metres of wire, and towed it from ten in the morning till two o'clock in the afternoon. At 5.15 P.M. it came up with a most successful catch. The greater abundance of organisms here as compared with profound depths was surprising. There were at least 500 holothurians belonging

FIG. 81.
Oneirodes sp. Nat. size, 2.5 cm.

to several species, large red crustaceans, fifteen *Pagurus*, a number of actiniæ, lamellibranchiates, and sponges, as well as thirty-nine fishes (different species of *Macrurus*, *Alepocephalus*, *Halosauropsis*, *Bathysaurus*, *Benthosaurus*, and *Synaphobranchus*). This haul proved again that animal life was abundant at about 3000 metres (1500 fathoms).

Our pelagic hauls were equally interesting. They were carried out during the night of 8th June, and nine appliances were towed simultaneously. The surface tow-net contained a quantity of the large medusa (*Pelagia atlantica*), a number of what are sometimes called salmon-herrings (scopelids, most of them *Myctophum coccoi* or *M. punctatum*), and as many as thirteen black *Astronesthes niger*. This was the more remarkable because we had towed appliances on the trawl-wire at a depth of 30 metres the previous day, for at least four or five hours, and had not captured a single scopelid or *Astronesthes*. A better proof of the vertical wanderings of these animals seems