

the shores of Iceland, they commence to develop at a great rate, with the result that the plankton in those parts frequently yields abundant though monotonously uniform samples of these degenerate forms. The altered conditions of existence, which obviously must have supervened, have thus resulted in an extensive production of algæ, though without investing them with their normal robust appearance. The strings of cells are of much smaller diameter than usual, so that the formation of auxospores cannot have taken place at the stage that is usual elsewhere. Wesenberg-Lund has told us that pelagic

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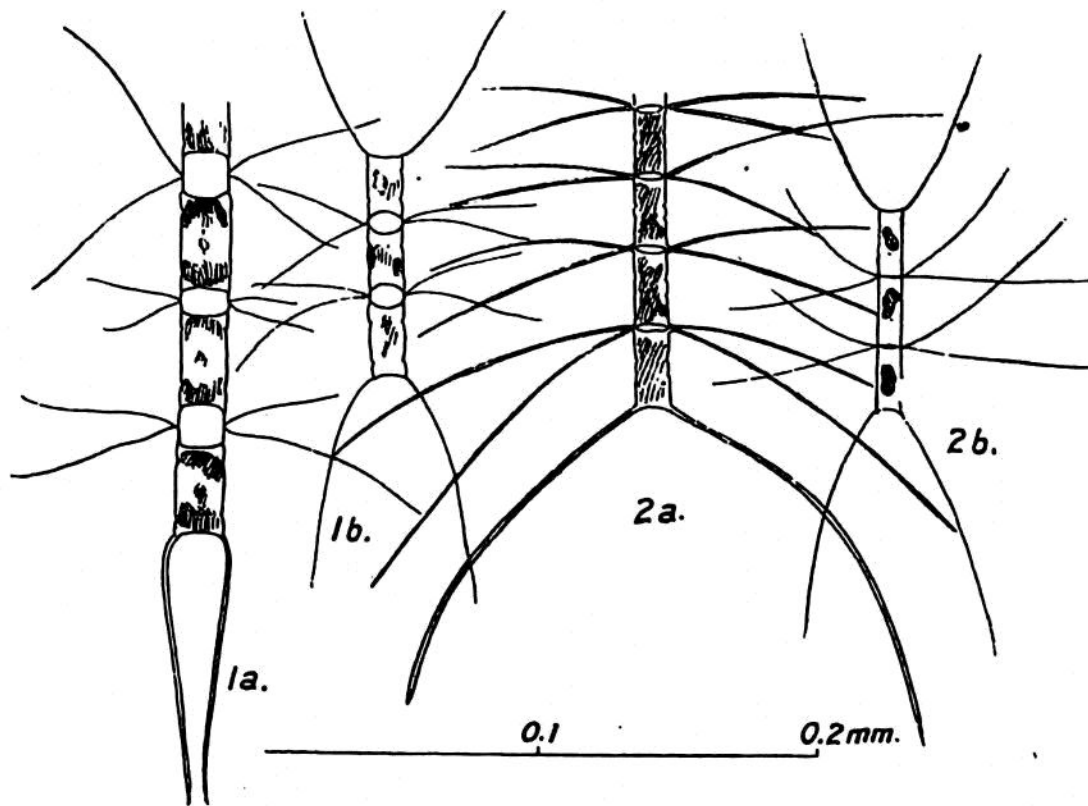


FIG. 244.

1a, *Chaetoceras lacinosum*; 1b, forma pelagica; 2a, *C. schüttii*; 2b, forma oceanica.

fresh-water diatoms, such as *Asterionella gracillima* and *Fragilaria crotonensis*, keep on reducing their dimensions in the Danish lakes for months, sometimes even for over a year, and then suddenly return to their maximum measurements, and that this is undoubtedly due to the formation of auxospores. All are not, however, affected alike by such a change, and the species occur thereafter in two different sizes, making it necessary to express the measurements of their cell-dimensions by means of divergent curves. This goes on uninterruptedly, moreover, and the smallest forms diminish and seem to degenerate more and more, until in Wesenberg-Lund's opinion they lose all power of regaining their normal