

individuals is the Sagittidæ or Chætognaths, which, along with copepoda, salpæ, pteropoda, and radiolaria, everywhere constitute the bulk of the small pelagic organisms captured by our fine-meshed tow-nets. They are perfectly transparent, of slender build, and swift of motion. On the head are some bristle-like gripping appliances, and an elastic film-like rim, reminding one of the fin of a fish, runs along the body and the "tail" (see Fig. 415).



FIG. 414.
Dinonemertes investigatoris,
Laidlaw. Half nat. size.

Among the best known is the genus *Tomopteris*, which has many beautiful surface forms, some of these (like *T. septentrionalis*) being boreal, some belonging to warm waters. In his narrative of the cruise of the "Valdivia," Chun tells us that nearly every haul from deep water in the Antarctic brought up beautiful specimens of *Tomopteris*, as long as the finger, transparent, and with rose-tinted feet (parapodia). Individuals belonging to the genus *Tomopteris* were taken in several of the deep hauls and also in the surface hauls of the "Michael Sars," but the material has not yet been worked up.

The Sagittidæ comprise only a few genera, the most prolific in species being the genus *Sagitta*, which is represented in all oceans; some of the species are very widely distributed, such as *Sagitta hexaptera*, *S. serratodentata*, *S. bipunctata*. In northern waters *Krohnia hamata*, *Sagitta arctica*, and *Sagitta gigantea* are characteristic forms, the last mentioned having been taken by the "Michael Sars" in deep hauls in the Norwegian Sea, while *Sagitta inflata* is a form peculiar to warm waters. All these species are perfectly transparent, but during the Atlantic cruise we found specimens of a bright red colour, precisely like that of the pelagic Nemertines, belonging to *Sagitta macrocephala* and *Eukrohnia fowleri*; they were very abundant, and occurred, like the Nemertines, only in deep hauls.

The very numerous families of higher worms, especially the Annelida, contribute very little to the pelagic fauna of the ocean.

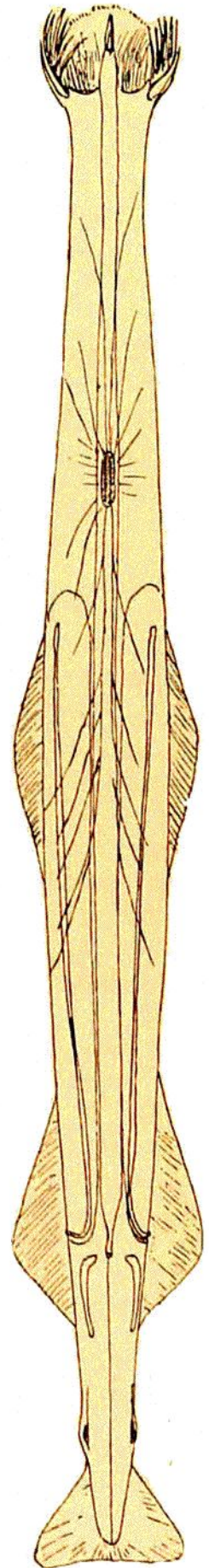


FIG. 415.
Sagitta hexaptera,
d'Orb. (†). (From
Hertwig.)