In describing the pelagic communities of the open Atlantic it is therefore natural to treat each of these three regions separately, and to consider the pelagic communities of the coast banks as a fourth biological region.

Bathypelagic Communities in Depths greater than 500 Metres.—The most abundant fishes in this region are two Sternoptychidæ of the genus *Cyclothone*, viz. *C. signata* and *C. microdon*.

Vertical distribution of *Cyclothone*.

Of these two species we caught altogether over 7500 individuals, which were all measured and arranged according to their length and the instrument in which they were captured, so as to obtain information regarding the occurrence of the different sizes at different depths. Fig. 473 shows, in the case of both species, the results of the catches made between Newfoundland and Ireland.

Cyclothone microdon was found during the cruise of the "Michael Sars" in the North Atlantic at every station where an appliance was towed in depths below 500 metres. Above 500 metres it was met with only occasionally, and at a depth of 300 metres we came across only one individual. In depths from 500 metres down to 1500 metres its quantitative occurrence appears to be fairly uniform.

In our northern as well as in our southern section we found approximately the same number of individuals in each of the three young-fish trawls which we towed simultaneously at depths of 500 metres, 1000 metres, and 1500 metres. At depths below 1500 metres we made only a few hauls, though, on the other hand, we carried out some vertical hauls, which allow of a comparison between the quantity met with above and below 1500 metres. At Station 63 (in the northernmost portion of the Sargasso Sea) we secured ten individuals in a haul from a depth of 4500 metres up to 1500 metres, and twenty-seven individuals in a haul from 1350 metres up to 450 metres. Accordingly, seeing that the first haul was made through a distance more than three times as great as the second, we get the result that there were nine times more individuals in the intermediate layer from 1350 metres up to 450 metres than below 1500 metres. A more complete analysis of the different depths from 1500 metres down to the bottom of the sea (about 5000 metres) would have been very desirable, but unfortunately we were unable to spare time for it. It may be that there is a layer at the lowest depths where there are no individuals, and I, for my part at any rate, cannot