

x cephalii). We see from Fig. 533 that about 200 individuals of this group were taken by us, belonging to some 20 species, and I have represented in Chapter III. some of the most peculiar new forms. Like most Atlantic fish-larvæ these forms are difficult to classify, because our knowledge of the different developmental stages is deficient, and also because these larvæ pass through a remarkable metamorphosis before assuming the ultimate shape of the adult. In a number of cases we are therefore quite ignorant as to what larval forms develop into

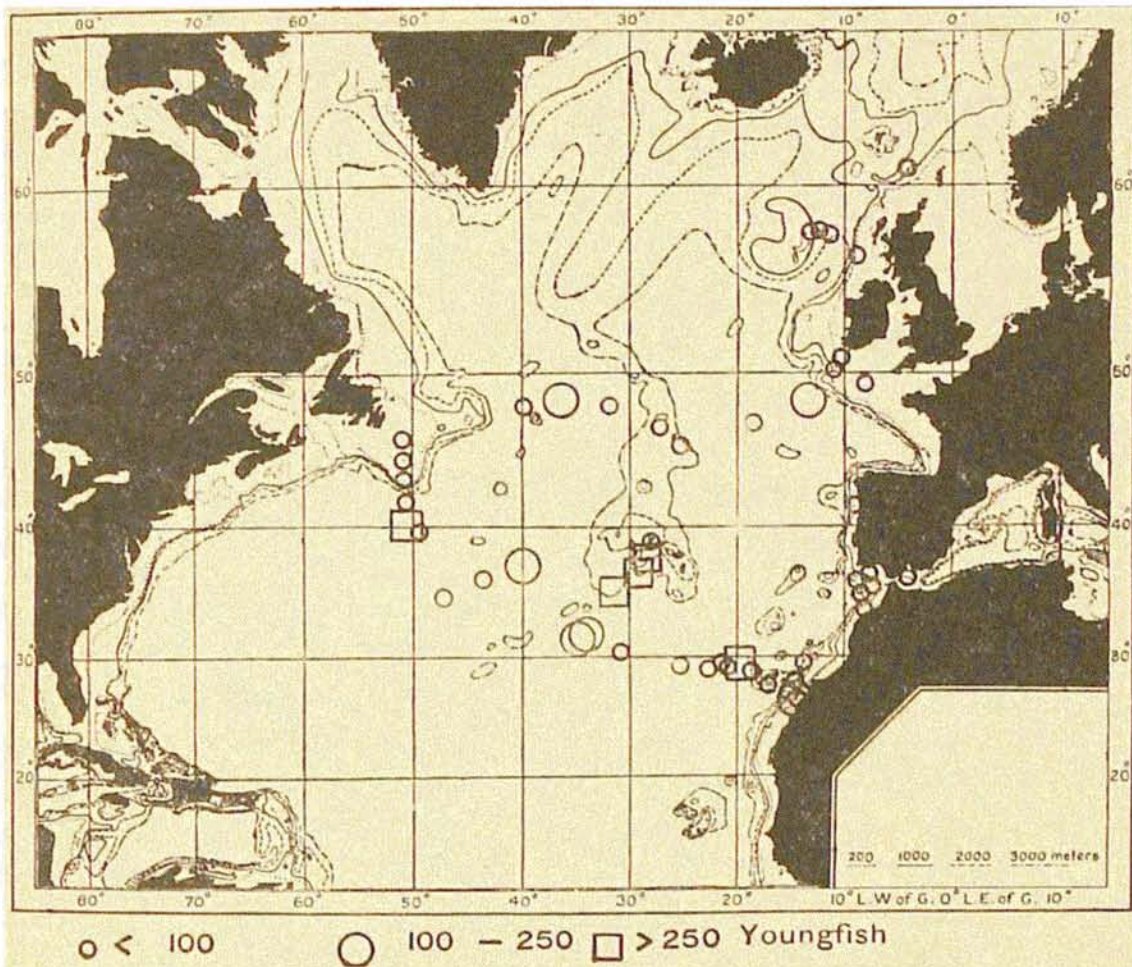


FIG. 544.—DISTRIBUTION OF YOUNG FISH.

the various known species belonging to the group of Apodes. Our material is being examined by Einar Lea, and will probably help to clear up some of the difficulties mentioned above. The stages belonging to *Gastrostomus bairdii* (repeatedly mentioned in Chapters III. and IX.; see Fig. 83, a, p. 97) form a very interesting series, the stages *a* and *b* (see Fig. 545) obviously being the transition stages between leptocephalus and adult; figure *a* plainly exhibits characters peculiar to the leptocephalus as well as to the adult, and evidently forms a more advanced stage of the transition. Another interesting transition stage in leptocephali is exhibited by the form repre-