

THE
VOYAGE OF H.M.S. CHALLENGER.

ZOOLOGY.

REPORT on the PYCNOGONIDA, dredged by H.M.S. Challenger during the years 1873–76. By Dr P. P. C. HOEK, Assistant at the Zootomical Laboratory of Leiden University.

THE beautiful and rich collection of PYCNOGONIDA formed during the expedition of the Challenger has been placed in my hands by Professor Sir Wyville Thomson, F.R.S., for description in the official report of the voyage.¹

Our knowledge with regard to the Pycnogonids in general, their systematic arrangement, their geographical distribution, &c., is still very insufficient; and with respect to those of the greater depths of the ocean hardly anything is known.

The first attempt towards a monograph of the Pycnogonida is that of George Johnston.² His paper was published in 1837, and treats of the British species known up to that time. Though no special paper on Pycnogonids seems to have been published previous to Johnston's, yet there are several works of an older date, in which descriptions of species and genera belonging to this group occur, as well as discussions as to their place in the Zoological System. But as the descriptions are for the greater part very incomplete and the species therefore not to be recognised, these works are interesting only in so far as they show how much uncertainty has always been felt as to the place of the Pycnogonids among the Arthropoda.

Linnæus (1767)³ brings the forms known to him under the genus *Phalangium*, in which also numerous land-spiders are placed, and which he ranges between *Hydrachna* and *Aranea* under his *Insecta aptera*.

¹ I wish to tender my sincere thanks to Professor Sir Wyville Thomson, F.R.S., &c., who liberally trusted to me—though a stranger—the drawing up of this report; at the same time to Mr John Murray who has kindly given me much valuable assistance.

² George Johnston.—An Attempt to ascertain the British Pycnogonidæ, in the Magazine of Zoology and Botany, conducted by W. Jardine, P. J. Selby, and G. Johnston, vol. i., 1837.

³ Carolus Linnæus, *Systema Naturæ*, editio xii. rev., 1766.