

IV. GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION.

Though the details of the distribution have already been given under each species, it is desirable that a few lines should be devoted to a consideration of (1) the distribution of the genus, and of the relations of the species, so far as regards their distribution, to each other; and (2) the factors that have caused, or at least aided, in bringing about the distribution.

HALOBATES.

Wüllerstorffi is the most widely diffused species. It is pre-eminently *the* species of the North Atlantic, and occurs also in the South Atlantic, Indian, and West Pacific Oceans.

Micans is reported from the Atlantic, Indian, and Pacific Oceans, but seems to be very rare, and it is possible that some confusion exists in the records, and that *wüllerstorffi* has in some cases been confounded with *micans*.

Sericeus is a species that seems very abundantly represented by individuals, but it is almost confined to the Pacific, especially the North Pacific, of which it is pre-eminently *the* species. It has been recorded as occurring near the Cape and near Madagascar, but this is possibly an error of determination. I have before me two specimens (from the Challenger) from the North Atlantic. I cannot think that there is a mistake about the locality of these, but still, corroboration is very desirable.

Flaviventris is a rare species. I have seen specimens from near St. Helena, and from near Ceylon, and it has also been reported from near Madagascar.

All the remaining species are, so far as we yet know, very limited in their distribution.

Streatfieldanus has only once been taken in the South Atlantic; *hayanus* occurs at Aden; *frauenfeldanus* at the Nicobars; *proavus* near Gilolo; *princeps* in the Celebes Sea; and *germanus* and *sobrinus* in one or two localities in the Pacific.

To sum up, five species occur in the Atlantic, but one only is (so far as we know) restricted to that ocean, though the headquarters of another appear to be there.

Six species, of which two are peculiar, occur in the Indian Ocean, west of long. 100° E., while to the east of long. 100° E., and chiefly in the West Pacific, eight species occur, of which four are restricted to that region. But if we take the Indian Ocean and West Pacific together, we find that nine out of the eleven known species occur there, and five nowhere else. It would seem, therefore, that the region between the eastern part of the Indian Ocean and the West Pacific is the metropolis of the genus, and it does not seem to