

Octopus brevipes, d'Orbigny.

1838. *Octopus brevipes*, d'Orb., Céph. acét., p. 61; Poulpes, pl. xvii. fig. 1.

Habitat.—North Pacific, April 3, 1875; lat. 24° 49' N., long. 138° 34' E.; surface. One specimen.

North Atlantic; lat. 23° N., long. 32° W. (d'Orbigny).

A small specimen (11 mm. long) in the collection resembles d'Orbigny's figure so closely that I apply his name to it. The colour, however, is much darker along the dorsal surface of the arms; it is almost certain that both are young forms, perhaps of two distinct species.

Octopus sp.

Habitat.—Station 188, south of Papua, September 10, 1874; lat. 9° 59' S., long. 139° 42' E.; 28 fathoms; green mud. One specimen.

An immature specimen, which could not be determined, was obtained at this Station.

Octopus sp.

Habitat.—Station 184, east of Cape York, August 29, 1874; lat. 12° 8' S., long. 145° 10' E.; 1400 fathoms; Globigerina ooze. One specimen.

At this Station the trawl brought up some fragments of an *Octopus*, which it was quite impossible to determine.

Eledone, Leach.

The species of this genus are exceedingly difficult to discriminate, and it is by no means certain into how many even the commonly occurring European forms should be divided.

The difficulties are of the same kind as those encountered in the genus *Octopus*, and the remarks made under that heading (see p. 74) apply equally here also.

It seems necessary to go to some extent into the history of this generic name, since Dr. de Rochebrune has recently discussed it¹ and arrived at a conclusion whither I can hardly follow him.

For the present purpose it is not necessary to refer to any pre-Linnean authors, for, as Dr. de Rochebrune himself admits, they are not to be considered in cases of priority; we have therefore merely to inquire who was the first after the year 1758 (or 1766) to formally establish the present genus. In the year 1817, Leach wrote, in the *Zoological Miscellany* (vol. iii. p. 137), thus, "Pedes antliis simplice serie instructi, consimiles,

¹ Monogr. Eledonidæ.