

idea is supported by a closely analogous form taken in the West Indies during the "Blake" expedition under the superintendence of Professor Agassiz, and named by Professor Alphonse Milne-Edwards *Pylocheles agassizii*.

Family THALASSINIDÆ.

Carapace produced anteriorly to a point in advance of the frontal margin; dorsally flattened. Eyes small; ophthalmopoda cylindrical. First pair of antennæ having the flagella long; second pair without a scaphocerite.

First pair of pereopoda unequal, imperfectly chelate, the pollex being shorter than the dactylos.

The four following pairs of pereopoda not chelate, terminating in a long dactylos; outer rami of the rhipidura without diæresis, slender, rigid, pointed. Telson without diæresis, rigid, obtuse, pointed. Branchiæ complex, trichobranchiate at the base, and phyllobranchiate on the exterior of each plume.

This family corresponds with Dana's, and contains, so far as research has yet proved, only a single genus.

Thalassina, Latreille.

Geographical Distribution.—A very fine specimen of one species of this genus, measuring 225 mm. in length, was procured at Kandavu, one of the Fiji Islands. It has been preserved in a bottle with fresh water prawns, and, not being labelled as coming from any station, was, I presume, procured from the natives, and not dredged. Milne-Edwards records it from the coast of Chili, while Desmarest states that it comes from the Indian seas. Heller, in the voyage of the Russian frigate "Novara," obtained it from the Nicobar Isles. Although the localities recorded are not numerous, they are sufficient to show the very wide area over which the animal is distributed, and if, as I am strongly induced to believe from the description given by Heller in the work quoted, *Thalassina maxima* is only a smooth variety of *Thalassina scorpionoides*, and the little *Thalassina gracilis* of Dana only the young of this same species, then we shall find that the geographical distribution extends from Singapore to Sydney, and across the Pacific and Indian Oceans. Even if these two specimens be distinct, their separation is not great, for the young, when only an inch and a half long, as is that of *Thalassina gracilis*, if not identical, must closely approximate to it in form; while *Thalassina maxima* appears to be only a less pronounced specimen of the typical species. A genus that is represented by a single species, the distribution of which is so very wide, would, we should presume, have structural conditions decidedly favourable to natural acclimatisation.