

BATHYMETRICAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE CHALLENGER
HEXACTINELLIDA.

In order to afford a ready survey of the main results of the Challenger Expedition in regard to the bathymetrical distribution of the Hexactinellida, I have compiled Table VIII., in which the horizontal divisions mark out intervals of depth of 100 fathoms each from 100 to 1000 fathoms, and of 500 fathoms each from 1000 to 3000 fathoms, while the vertical columns correspond to the four families of Lyssacina, and the two main divisions of Dictyonina, the Uncinataria and Inermia.

This table shows distinctly that Hexactinellida occur in varying abundance only from about 100 (more exactly 95) up to 3000 (more exactly 2900) fathoms.

Thus the previously determined character of the Hexactinellida as specifically, and in fact exclusively, deep-sea forms is indubitably established, and the maximum depth previously known (2410 fathoms according to Agassiz) is exceeded by several hundred fathoms, with a maximum of 2900.

In order to express clearly the bathymetrical distribution of the Hexactinellida in the different oceans, it is convenient to tabulate not only for the whole group, but also for the several divisions, the statistics of depth and abundance, both in their absolute and percentage relations. This is done in the following table:—