

DISTRIBUTION.

Though we are still without the data which would enable us to give a complete exposition of the distribution of the Hydroida, our knowledge of this has been very much extended by the explorations of the Challenger, and both in the horizontal distribution of these organisms, and in their bathymetrical range, important accessions have been made to it.

With the view of giving as graphic an expression as possible to the distribution of the species obtained during the voyage, I have divided the whole track of the Challenger into the following sixteen Regions, named either from the adjacent lands or from their position in the great oceans through which the course of the expedition lay. Their boundaries are detailed below and may be seen in the Map at the end of this Report. In order to render them as simple as possible, I have made the Regions to consist of rectangular areas, each limited to the north and south by parallels of latitude, and to the east and west by meridians of longitude. Their size varies much, and they are framed without regard to their occasionally encroaching on the adjacent continents.

Though the species are very unequally distributed among the various Regions, it was only from two of these Regions, the Britanno-Gallic whose Hydroid Fauna has been already well investigated, and the Antarctic, that no Hydroids were brought home.

I. BRITANNO-GALLIC.

Limits—Northern, lat. 51° N.
 Southern, lat. 45° N.
 Eastern, long. 0°
 Western, long. 20° W.

It includes the south-western extremity of England, and the north-western and western coasts of France.

II. THE AZORIC.

Limits—Northern, lat. 45° N.
 Southern, lat. 35° N.
 Eastern, long. 5° W.
 Western, long. 50° W.

It includes the Azores, the western coast of Spain, and Gibraltar.

III. THE NOVA-SCOTIAN.

Limits—Northern, lat. 50° N.
 Southern, lat. 40° N.
 Eastern, long. 50° W.
 Western, long. 75° W.

It includes Nova Scotia and the neighbouring coast of North America.

IV. WEST INDIAN.

Limits—Northern, lat. 40° N.
 Southern, lat. 10° N.
 Eastern, long. 50° W.
 Western, long. 80° W.

It includes Bermuda, the West Indian Islands, and the northern coast of South America.