

occur occasionally in immense quantities. Crustaceans are represented by a characteristic deep-sea form, namely the isopod *Glyptonotus megalurus*, nearly related to a form that occurs in the arctic region in shallower waters; pycnogonids by

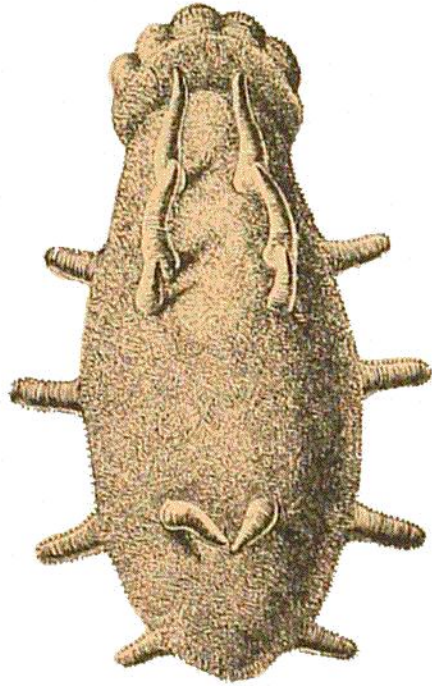


FIG. 368.  
*Elpidia glacialis*, Théel. Magnified.  
(After Stuxberg.)

*Ascorhynchus abyssi*; and molluscs by *Pecten frigidus* (see Fig. 369), *Neptunea mohni*, *Natica bathybi*, etc. There are also some deep-sea sponges, prominent amongst which are the Hexactinellids; although not regularly distributed over the Norwegian Sea, they are found in great quantities to the north of Spitsbergen at a depth of 1000 metres, where they and another group (Tetraxonia) constitute the most characteristic portion of the fauna. Outgrowths on their under sides enable them to hold fast to the soft bottom, which is littered with silicious spicules from dead sponges.<sup>1</sup> Römer and Schaudinn have doubted whether the deep-sea fauna of those northern latitudes is to be considered zoo-geographically as a part

of the fauna of the Norwegian Sea deep basin, or whether it belongs to a separate faunal area, the deep polar basin; deep-sea sponges have, however, been subsequently found in quantities farther south (lat. 72° 23' N., long. 13° 50' W.) at a depth of 2000 metres.<sup>2</sup>

The forms limited exclusively to the abyssal region, or at any rate only very exceptionally occurring in shallower waters, are not the only ones which characterise the Norwegian Sea deep basin, for we find regularly also a number of other forms met with on the slopes in the cold area.<sup>3</sup>

Just as the Norwegian Sea deep basin has its own (even though rather few) characteristic forms, which do not ascend to the arctic plateaus but constitute a typical deep-sea fauna, so, too, the plateaus have a



FIG. 369.  
*Pecten frigidus*,  
Jensen. "Michael  
Sars," 1900.

<sup>1</sup> Römer and Schaudinn, *op. cit.* p. 49.

<sup>2</sup> Kolthoff, *Till Spetsbergen och nordöstra Grönland*, 1900, pp. 212-213.

<sup>3</sup> The "Michael Sars" found at about 2000 metres the echinoderms: *Bathybiaster vexillifer*, *Ophiocten sericeum*, and *Pourtalesia*; the mollusc: *Siphonodentalium vitreum*; the crustaceans: *Bythocaris leucopsis* and *Hymenodora glacialis*; the pycnogonid: *Nymphon robustum*; the worm: *Lumbrineris*, etc. The tube-worm, *Myriochele*, with its fine sand-tube, belongs to the forms which occur in quantities in the depths of the Norwegian Sea.