

DEEP-WATER FAUNA OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC

It is easy to see how much the configuration of the bottom, and the hydrographical conditions associated with it, affect the distribution of animal-forms, if we compare the fauna of the Norwegian Sea north of the submarine Iceland - Faroe - Shetland and Iceland-Greenland ridges, with the fauna of the Atlantic Ocean to the south of these ridges. Thanks to the painstaking researches of the Danish "Ingolf" Expedition, and the subsequent investigations of the "Michael Sars" in

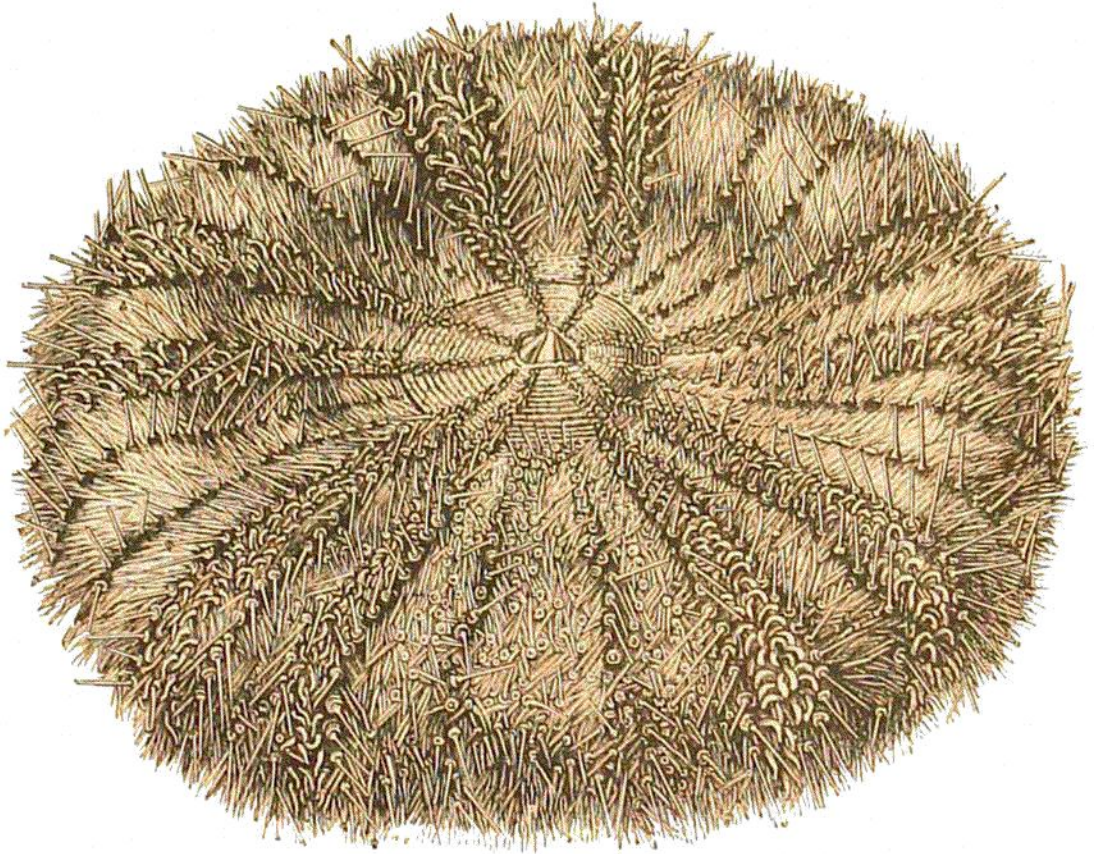


FIG. 377.

Calveria hystrix, Wy. Thoms. Reduced. (After Wyville Thomson.)

1902, we are now acquainted with the principal characteristics of both. The chief hydrographical differences in these two marine areas are due to the intervening ridges, covered on an average by 550 to 600 metres of water, which prevent the icy bottom water of the Norwegian sea from entering the Atlantic, and conversely the warm Atlantic water from flowing over the floor of the Norwegian Sea.¹ Two temperature-readings are sufficient to make this clear: in 1902 the "Michael Sars" found a temperature of -0.41° C. in the Faroe-Shetland channel at

¹ On the other hand, the Atlantic and Polar currents meet, as already stated, over the Iceland-Faroe ridge.