

The larval Actiniæ are biologically of great interest, especially *Arachnactis albida*, first described by Michael Sars (Fig. 412). The north-eastern corner of the Atlantic is its main area of distribution, principally between the Hebrides and the Faroe Islands, but at certain seasons it is carried into the North Sea and the Skagerrack, and to the west coast of Norway, where Sars found it (see Fig. 480). Actiniaria.

A description of the larvæ peculiar to the different groups would lead us too far, but in order to prepare the reader for the next chapter some of the forms have been mentioned.

The Worms are comparatively rare among the pelagic forms. Of the lowest worms (platyhelminthes) the pelagic Nemertines are of interest. Nearly all Nemertines live along the bottom, but a pelagic genus (*Pelagonemertes*) was described by Moseley in the "Challenger" Reports. Subsequently several species have been described, all represented by isolated specimens. These remarkable forms are red or orange coloured, and their digestive tract is extremely ramified. According to Brinkmann, who is examining our material, most of the previously known species, as well as some new species, have been taken during our Atlantic cruise, and prove that several species hitherto regarded as distinct are really identical: thus *Nectonemertes grimaldi*, *N. lobata*, and *N. pelagica* are all identical with *N. mirabilis*. The genus *Nectonemertes* with *N. mirabilis*, and also the genus *Hyalonemertes* with *H. atlantica*, were established by Verrill. The two forms (see Fig. 413) differ, as shown by later investigations, only in one single character, *N. mirabilis* having two long appendages on the head, which are lacking in *H. atlantica*. The abundant material collected by the "Michael Sars" has enabled Brinkmann to show that all the individuals of *N. mirabilis* are males, while all the individuals of *H. atlantica* are females, and he concludes that both belong to the same species, the difference between them being only a sexual one. Of Vermes.

Very interesting were some gigantic specimens belonging to this group secured during the cruise. One form, *Dinonemertes investigatoris* (see Fig. 414), was 20.5 cm. long, and when living was of a bright red tint and nearly transparent, all the ramifications of the digestive tract being plainly visible. As we shall see when reviewing the captures of the "Michael Sars," all these Nemertines are deep-sea forms with a very characteristic vertical distribution. Several of the species are very widely distributed, *Nectonemertes mirabilis*, for instance, being known from Davis Straits, from the Pacific off California, and all through the Atlantic; *Dinonemertes investigatoris* is known from the Atlantic as well as from the Indian Ocean.

The most abundant group of pelagic worms as regards number of

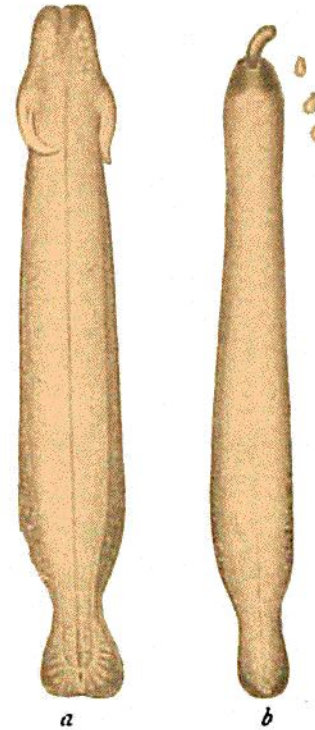


FIG. 413.  
*Nectonemertes mirabilis*,  
Verrill. Slightly enlarged.  
a, male; b, female.