

THE
VOYAGE OF H.M.S. CHALLENGER.

ZOOLOGY.

REPORT on the BRACHIOPODA dredged by H.M.S. Challenger during the years 1873-1876. By THOMAS DAVIDSON, F.R.S., F.L.S., F.G.S., V.P.P.S., &c.¹

AT the request of Professor Sir Wyville Thomson, F.R.S., I have undertaken the examination, description, and illustration of the Brachiopoda dredged during the Challenger Expedition.

Very little seems to have been known with respect to recent Brachiopoda before the middle of the last century; and even during the period extending from 1750 to 1800, the information relating to the recent species was, with some exceptions, meagre and often unsatisfactory.

A Brachiopod, until within the last fifty years, was considered a great rarity in all collections, and no one could boast of possessing more than a very limited number of species and specimens. Much uncertainty was also felt as to their nature, and the position they should occupy among the Invertebrata. They were generally supposed to be referable to the genus *Anomia*, and were very quaintly described by some of the earlier naturalists; several more serious and better informed observers appeared soon after 1753, such as Linnæus, Pennant, Müller, Lamanou, Pallas, Poli, Grundler, and a few others, who were able, in a measure, to prepare the way for the important discoveries reserved for the more favoured naturalists of the present century.

¹ Since the publication of my short paper, On the Brachiopoda dredged by H.M.S. Challenger, in the Proceedings of the Royal Society, vol. xxvii. p. 428, May 1878, some few more specimens have been found among the Mollusca obtained during that expedition, which has necessitated some little additions and alterations to the general results (see Appendix). The Latin ending of some of the specific names has likewise been slightly altered. I may also mention that a complete series of the Brachiopoda described in this report numbering 345 specimens, has, at Sir Wyville's request, been selected by myself, and handed over to the authorities of the British Museum by Sir Wyville Thomson. I desire likewise to tender to Sir Wyville Thomson my sincere thanks for the courteous manner with which he has afforded me every assistance within his power, also to Mr John Murray, the Rev. R. Boog Watson, Dr Gwyn Jeffreys, Mr Dall, M. Perrier, Dr Günther, and others.