

THE
VOYAGE OF H.M.S. CHALLENGER.

ZOOLOGY.

REPORT on the OSTRACODA dredged by H.M.S. Challenger during the years
1873-1876. By G. STEWARDSON BRADY, M.D., F.L.S.

INTRODUCTORY.

THE extreme depths of the sea, though supporting an abundance of animal life of many kinds, nevertheless present conditions very unfavourable, it would seem, to the existence of the particular group which forms the subject of this report. So that in those large abyssal areas where, as commonly happens, the ocean-bed consists of pure globigerina ooze or of "red clay," one searches usually in vain for traces of OSTRACODA; and when these do occur their numbers are extremely small, the specimens usually consisting of detached valves, frequently much worn or broken. It would not, however, be fair to assume from these appearances that the specimens had been transported, by currents or otherwise, from shallower waters,—still less that they had subsided, as is probable in the case of many Foraminifera, from the water above; seeing that the species found in these abysses are usually quite incapable of swimming. We must, therefore, conclude that Ostracoda do live, though in very limited numbers, in the most profound depths of the sea.

The list given below includes the names of all species found in dredgings beyond a depth of 500 fathoms, the total number being fifty-two species from twenty-nine dredgings, the number of individuals being likewise very small. And if we exclude from consideration all but the very greatest depths, from 1500 fathoms downwards, the paucity of species becomes still more apparent. To exhibit this clearly, I print a list of the species found in thirteen dredgings, from depths of more than 1500 fathoms; the number of species here is nineteen,¹ a result sufficiently striking when compared with such single shallow-water dredgings as that from near Booby Island (see list, p. 21), which shows twenty-eight species; from Torres' Straits (p. 21), nineteen; Balfour Bay, Kerguelen Island (p. 16), nineteen; or Port Jackson (p. 19), twenty-three species.

¹ Two out of the nineteen are species of *Halocypris*, which in all probability got into the dredge during the process of hauling in, so that the number might not unfairly be put down as seventeen.