

Of the ninety different species of Hexactinellids obtained on the Challenger Expedition—

24	species	were	found	in	the	Atlantic.
16	"	"	"	"	"	Indian Ocean.
57	"	"	"	"	"	Pacific.

But it is obvious that these figures taken by themselves, without reference to the number of dredgings and trawlings, do not give any correct representation of the abundance of Hexactinellida in the different regions. It is necessary to take into account for each ocean the total number of dredgings or trawlings, and the proportion of these which yield Hexactinellida. The percentage figures for the separate regions must then be compared with the statistics of the whole expedition.

Out of the total 276 dredgings or trawlings only 58 yielded Hexactinellida, which gives a percentage of 21·1 over the whole. Of the 125 dredgings or trawlings in the Atlantic 19 yielded Hexactinellida, *i.e.*, a percentage of 15·2; of the 32 searches in the Indian Ocean 11 were successful, *i.e.*, 34·4 per cent.; of the 119 in the Pacific 28, *i.e.*, 23·5 per cent., were rewarded with Hexactinellid booty.

Thus we see that of the three oceans the Atlantic appears to be by far the poorest in Hexactinellids, and in its percentage of 15·2 is not a little below the general average of 21·1; while in contrast to this the Indian Ocean is richest, and in its percentage of 34·4 is considerable above the average, which the Pacific with its 23·5 per cent. only slightly exceeds.

If in the case of the two largest oceans the northern be estimated apart from the southern half, then the proportionate statistics stands as follows:—

	North Atlantic.	South Atlantic.	Southern Ocean.	North Pacific.	South Pacific.
Total number of dredgings or trawlings.	79	46	32	47	72
	125			119	
Number of dredgings or trawlings yielding Hexactinellids.	11	8	11	11	17
	19			28	
Percentages of the dredgings or trawlings yielding Hexactinellids compared with the total numbers of dredgings or trawlings.	13·9	17·4	34·4	23·4	23·6
	15·2			23·5	

From this it is apparent that the northern portion of the Atlantic is not so rich in Hexactinellids as the southern, and that in the Pacific also the northern half is somewhat surpassed by the southern.