

Thus, then, thirteen species have been found in the abyssal zone, two of which are also littoral, while three are continental. The two former both belong to the genus *Rhizocrinus*, of which no exclusively abyssal species are known; though it has been met with at sixteen out of the thirty-four Stations in the abyssal zone. It is well represented in the Lower Tertiaries, and perhaps ranges back to the Cretaceous period, when its larger ally *Bourgueticrinus* was so abundant.

Pentacrinus has been found at nine Stations where the depth exceeded 500 fathoms; and two of its four abyssal species are also continental. But on the other hand, *Bathycrinus*, which occurs in the Atlantic at nine abyssal Stations between lat. 65° N. and 46° S., has never been found at a less depth than 1050 fathoms; while it embraces four out of the eight species which are peculiar to the abyssal zone.

No fossil *Bathycrinus* is known, however, and the genus has no special affinities except with *Rhizocrinus*, of which it may almost be said to be the "benthal"¹ representative. Of the four remaining abyssal species, one is the sole representative of the remarkable genus *Hyocrinus*, and has only been met with at 1600 fathoms and still greater depths. Like the Comatulid genus *Thaumatocrinus*, which occurs at 1800 fathoms in the Southern Ocean, it has certain strong points of resemblance to the Palæocrinoids.

Pentacrinus ranges back to the Trias and *Rhizocrinus* to the Eocene or Upper Cretaceous. But they are both abundant at depths of less than 100 fathoms, *Pentacrinus* occurring in the Pacific and in the East Indian Archipelago, as well as in the Atlantic and among the Caribbean Islands; while *Rhizocrinus*, though limited to the eastern hemisphere, ranges through over 100° of latitude.

In spite, therefore, of the existence of a few characteristic abyssal types, it is somewhat of an exaggeration to speak of the Stalked Crinoids as a group "on the verge of extinction," of which a few survivors may occasionally be discovered in the deeper parts of the great ocean basins.

¹ Dr. Gwyn Jeffreys has suggested that this word be employed to denote depths exceeding 1000 fathoms. See his address to the Biological Section at the Plymouth Meeting of the British Association, 1877, p. 79.