

The most remarkable instances of wide distribution are *Octopus macropus* (from five regions), *Octopus granulatus* and *Argonauta argo* (each from six), and *Octopus vulgaris* (from ten regions); but with regard to each of these it is probable that other species have been recorded under the names of the better known ones. This is more especially likely in the last instance, for the specific name *vulgaris* seems to impress certain minds with the idea that the commonest form in all regions must be referable to it.

The genus *Sepia*, in contradistinction to *Octopus* and *Loligo* which are cosmopolitan, presents us with a very interesting case of wide but yet definitely limited distribution. The different distributional regions contain the following numbers of species :<sup>1</sup>—

I. Scandinavian, . . . . . 1	X. Japanese, . . . . . 9
II. New England, . . . . . 0	XI. Australian, . . . . . 9
III. West Indian, . . . . . 1	XII. New Zealand, . . . . . 1
IV. Lusitanian, . . . . . 5	XIII. Pacific Insular, . . . . . 1
V. Mediterranean, . . . . . 5	XIV. Californian, . . . . . 0
VI. West African, . . . . . 4	XV. Peruvian, . . . . . 0
VII. South African, . . . . . 5	XVI. Patagonian, . . . . . 0
VIII. Red Sea, . . . . . 5	XVII. Arctic, . . . . . 0
IX. Indo-Malayan, . . . . . 19	

From this summary it appears, in the first place, that the whole American continent is devoid of any species of this genus, and that from the islands only one species has been recorded and that a very doubtful one (*Sepia antillarum*, d'Orb.). The opposite hemisphere, however, is just as rich in species as this one is poor, and the greatest abundance is seen to be in the Indo-Malayan region, from which no less than nineteen forms have been recorded, while the remaining districts seem to contain fewer types pretty nearly in proportion as they are removed from this centre; thus Japan and Australia each have nine; the Red Sea, South Africa and the Mediterranean each five, while the Scandinavian region has only one. The conclusion is most forcibly suggested that this genus was first developed in this part of the world and has gradually spread, *Sepia antillarum* being as it were a pioneer leading the way to the occupation of the Western Hemisphere.

An interesting correspondence has often been remarked between the Scandinavian and New England regions; Verrill has called attention to it as regards the Mollusca as a whole, and I have elsewhere given a comparison between the Ophiuroidea from the two sides of the Atlantic.<sup>2</sup> As regards the Cephalopoda the resemblance between the two faunas is not striking, especially at first sight, only *Octopus piscatorum* and *Octopus arcticus* being actually common to the two; but it must be remembered that several of the species of *Rossia* resemble each other closely (e.g., *Rossia glaucopsis* of the European, and *Rossia hyatti* of the American waters), while there is no doubt that *Illex illecebrosus* and *Illex coindetii* are very nearly allied to each other. This resemblance

<sup>1</sup> Species of the genus *Sepiella* are here included.

<sup>2</sup> *Proc. Roy. Soc. Edin.*, vol. xii. p. 727, 1884.