

SECTION V.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE CTENOPHORÆ.

The preceding enumeration may furnish the means of tracing, to some extent, the geographical range of the Ctenophoræ, though it must be apparent, from a survey of the localities where Acalephs of this order have thus far been observed, that much remains to be done before the laws which regulate their distribution can be ascertained. One fact, however, is already plain, that there exist Ctenophoræ in all the oceans, and that they are as common in the arctic as in the temperate and tropical seas; though the range of the different genera and species does not seem to be more extensive or more limited than that of most marine animals. Peculiar genera and species are known to be limited to certain parts of the ocean, while other genera have a wider range and seem everywhere to have special representatives. The Beroids proper are unquestionably the most widely distributed, species of this family having been noticed under all latitudes and in every ocean. Next to them the Saccatæ have the most extensive range; but among these there is already a marked difference between different families, the Mertensidæ having a more northern range than the Cydippidæ proper. Indeed, the genus *Mertensia* is entirely arctic, while the genera *Martensia*, *Gegenbauria*, and *Owenia* belong to the temperate zone. *Pleurobrachia* and *Janira* seem to be cosmopolite, *Eschscholtzia* and *Hormiphora* are the representatives of the same family in the temperate zone, while *Dryodora* is arctic. The *Callianiridæ* proper belong to the warm regions. The *Taniatæ* are entirely foreign to the cold climates, and seem to be more numerous in the tropical regions than even in the temperate parts of the globe where they were first observed. As to the *Lobatæ*, we find the family of *Bolinidæ* in the cold and temperate zones, extending to the limits of the tropics; while the *Euramphaidæ*, the *Mnemidæ*, the *Calymmidæ*, and the *Ocyroidæ* are almost exclusively tropical, and have only a few representatives in the warmer temperate zones.

If it were certain that the *Beroidæ* proper are the lowest Ctenophoræ and the *Lobatæ* the highest, it would follow, that, on the whole, the lower representatives of this order are the most widely distributed, and that the highest are more extensively found in the tropical regions, while those occupying an intermediate position are either cosmopolites, or denizens of the temperate zone, or more tropical. It seems at least to follow from the facts thus far ascertained, that the most elegant and largest representatives of the *Lobatæ*, such as *Chiaja* and *Leucothea*, belong to the warmer temperate and to the tropical zones, and that the most aberrant