

SECTION II.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE DISCOPHORÆ.

Although there are extensive tracts of the sea, the Discophoræ of which have never been noticed, and there are also vast regions, probably including several distinct Faunæ, the Acalephs of which are entirely unknown, it is, nevertheless, already possible to draw interesting results from the data on hand, especially by comparing the character of the Faunæ which have been extensively explored, with the few types known from other quarters. The accessions furnished by the United States Exploring Expedition, under command of Captain Charles Wilkes, the data obtained from Mr. W. W. Wood, and the observations of my son along the coast of Oregon and California, are highly valuable in that respect, as affording the means of contrasting the Faunæ of the Pacific coast of North America, of Terra del Fuego, and of China, with those explored by Eschscholtz, Mertens, Lesson, and the resident naturalists of Europe and North America.

It appears from the data recorded in the preceding tabular view, that the lowest Discophoræ, the Lucernariadæ, are the only ones which extend to the boreal Faunæ, and that some genera, *Aurelia* and *Pelagia* for instance, are cosmopolites, while others, such as *Cyanea* proper, are peculiar to the northern hemisphere; others are tropical, such as *Mastigias*, *Leptobrachia*, *Cephea*, *Polyrhiza*, *Diplopilus*, and *Hydroticus*; others still. *Rhacopilus*, *Placois*, and *Lobocrocis*, are only to be found in the southern hemisphere, and many are quite local in their distribution, as, for instance, the genera *Stomolophus*, *Stylonectes*, *Cotylorhiza*, *Sthenonia*, *Phacellophora*, *Heccædecomma*, *Couthouyia*, *Medora*, *Desmonema*, and *Marsupialis* proper. The grouping of the species in their respective zoölogical provinces is also interesting to notice, and shows that every region of the ocean has its own species, variously associated. It is much to be regretted that the localities from which many of the species described by older writers were obtained, are not given with greater precision, as they cannot now be referred with accuracy to their Faunæ.

It is not yet possible to separate, with precision, the arctic and boreal Faunæ, as far as the Discophoræ are concerned. In the Celtic Fauna we find *Rhizostoma Cuvierii*, *Hologocladodes lunulatus*, *Aurelia cruciata*, *Cyanea capillata* and *Lamarckii*, *Chrysaora lysoscella*, *Polyxenia Alderi*, *Lucernaria quadricornis*, which is rather boreal, *inauriculata*, *campanulata* and *auricula*, *Depastrum stellifrons*, and *Carduella cyathiformis*, the latter boreal only. In the Acadian Fauna, we find *Aurelia flavidula*, *Cyanea arctica*, *Lucernaria quadricornis*, if identical with the European, and *L. Fabricii*;