

great depths, and they were consequently supposed to be bottom-dwellers. Subsequently the Prince of Monaco, and later the "Valdivia," took in pelagic tow-nets a number of forms belonging chiefly to the family Sergestidæ, and to the genera *AcanthePHYra*, *Notostomus*, and *Eryoneicus*, all of which were thus proved to lead a pelagic life. The "Valdivia" took *Sergestes* in a haul with a closing net from 5000 to 4000 metres, and Chun states in his narrative of the cruise that whenever the vertical nets reached deep water this genus never failed to appear in the hauls.

During the Atlantic cruise of the "Michael Sars" we obtained large red prawns in such abundance (several litres per haul) as to prove that these animals play a more important part in pelagic life than was previously supposed. Our catches are also of special interest, because their study has thrown new light upon the vertical distribution

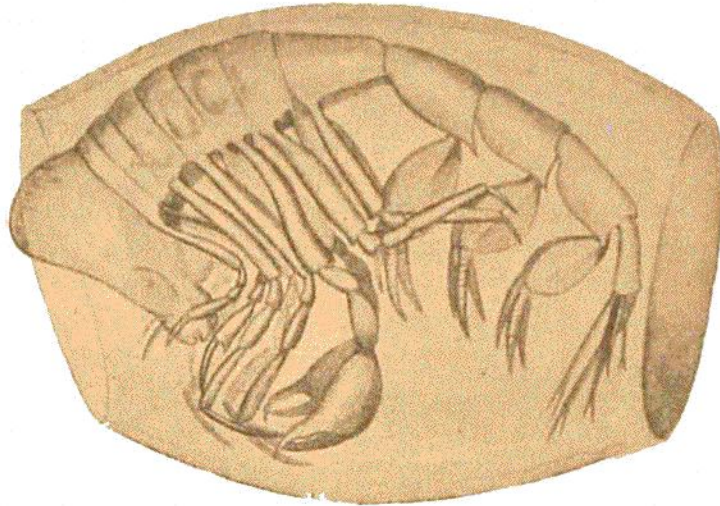


FIG. 423.
Phronima. (From Steuer.)

of the different species. We may here mention some of the most important forms recorded by Oscar Sund, who is describing this group.

Of pelagic decapoda more than forty species were taken during our expedition, but the great bulk is made up of about a dozen species, each of which has a wide geographical range, being regularly caught at all stations over vast areas. Most of these common species, which will be dealt with later on, present peculiarities in their biology and distribution.

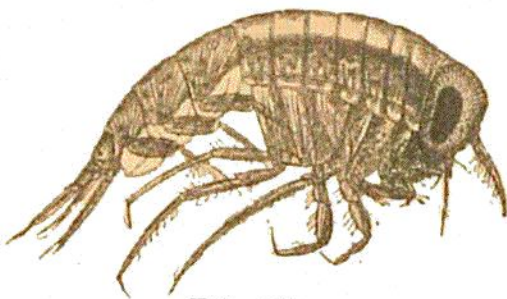


FIG. 424.
Parathemisto obliqua, Kröyer (†).
(From Sars.)

Most of the pelagic decapoda belong to the more primitive divisions of the group, viz. Sergestidæ, Peneidæ, Pasiphæidæ, and Hoplophoridæ, but a truly pelagic Pandalid (*Plesionika nana*, n. sp.) was taken at most of the stations from Spain to Newfoundland.

The genus *AcanthePHYra* of the Hoplophoridæ (see Plate III. Chapter X.) includes large red prawn-like forms, of which no less than eight different species were taken. On the section between Newfoundland and Ireland the two species *A. purpurea* and *A. multispina* were in special abundance.

Before the cruise of the "Michael Sars" only fifteen individuals belonging to the genus *Notostomus*, representing no less than thirteen species, had been recorded. We procured nineteen individuals in the North Atlantic belonging to five species, of which four are new to