

special interest, I have not attempted to give complete synonymies. I have especially avoided registering species as identical without such evidence as seemed to me absolutely conclusive, for, so far from tending to simplicity and clearness, hasty and indiscriminate identifying of species can only lead to the utmost confusion. It is too much to hope that there should be no mistakes in the references, but every care has been taken to reduce them to a minimum ; with the exception of a few, where the contrary is distinctly stated, they have all been personally verified by myself.

The Classification adopted is not identical with any previously published, but I have endeavoured to select what was best from the works of my predecessors, modifying their results when it seemed necessary. A systematic arrangement of this class, based on a complete knowledge of their anatomy and development, as well as of their external characters, is still and will long remain a desideratum.

The present list contains 388 species, which are disposed in 68 genera, and these in 14 families ; of which numbers 32 species, 4 genera, and 1 family are new to science. Of these at least 60 or 70 species have been inadequately characterised, so that it is unlikely that they could be recognised from the published descriptions, and the same is true of several of the genera ; hence it may be said in round numbers that we are acquainted with 50 genera of recent Cephalopoda containing 300 species. It is worthy of remark that 29 or half the genera contain only one species each, while nearly one-half the species (170) belong to the three genera *Octopus*, *Sepia*, and *Loligo*.