

class of oviparous quadrupeds with the organs of motion similar to those of the cetacea.

The *ichthyosaurus*, (1) discovered by Sir Everard Home, has the head of a lizard, but extended into a pointed muzzle, armed with conical and pointed teeth; enormous eyes, of which the sclerotica is strengthened with a bony case; a spine composed of flattened vertebræ, like the pieces used at the game of draughts, and concave on both sides like those of fishes; the ribs slender, the sternum and shoulder-bones like those of lizards and ornithorynchi; the pelvis small and weak; and four limbs, of which the humeri and femora are short and thick, and the other bones flatter, and set near each other like the stones of a pavement, so as to compose, when enveloped in skin, fins all in a piece and scarcely able to be bent; in a word, analogous, both in its use and construction, to those of cetacea. These reptiles lived in the sea; on land they could at best only crawl along like seals; and at the same time they breathed elastic air.

The remains of four species have been discovered.

That most extensively found (*I. communis*) has blunt conical teeth, and is sometimes twenty feet long.

The second (*I. platyodon*) at least as large, has compressed teeth, with round and swelling roots.

The third (*I. tenuirostris*) has slender and pointed teeth, and the muzzle slim and lengthened.

The fourth (*I. intermedius*) has teeth of a medium nature between the last species and the first. The two latter species do not attain half the size of the two former.(2)

(1) See Recherches, vol. 5, 2nd part, pp. 4 and 7.

(2) Ib. v. 5, 2nd part, p. 456.