

All the saurians of sect. A. div. 1., with the exception of mastodonsaurus (which occurs in the saliferous system) belong to the oolitic and lias rocks. In section A. div. 2., one, the protorosaurus, or monitor of Thuringia, is found in the saliferous, the other in the oolitic system.

The saurians of sect. B. are found only in the oolitic system. Those of sect. C. are chiefly confined to the oolitic rocks; mososaurus belongs to the chalk, phytosaurus to the saliferous rocks. Pterodactylus belongs to the lias and oolites. Thus, upon the whole, it is in the oolitic period, between the eras of the red sandstones and the greensands, that the large saurians existed in greatest abundance about the shores, in the rivers, and on the land, in these now cold regions of the globe: this was, in Mr. Mantell's language, the "age of reptiles;" though recently two new genera (thecodontosaurus and palæosaurus) have been added to the catalogue from the magnesian limestone of Bristol (by Dr. Riley and Mr. Stutchbury), and one other species is supposed to occur in the limestone associated with coal at Ardwick near Manchester.

The discoveries among fossil reptiles of the saurian races by Cuvier, Sömmering, St. Hilaire, Von Meyer, Conybeare, and the naturalists of Bristol, have equally awakened the attention of zoologists and geologists. Among the singularities revealed by these investigations, we may notice in the ichthyosaurus, the curious and beautiful combination of the swimming form and retral nostrils of the dolphin; the teeth of the gavial, or crocodile; paddles somewhat like those of the turtle; vertebræ like those of a fish; and eyes furnished with solerotic bones like those of birds and certain lizards. Pterodactylus, an almost fabulous creation, unites the wings of a bat with the skeleton of a lizard; its long neck being formed of only seven vertebræ, while the snake-like neck of plesiosaurus includes from thirty to forty! M. St. Hilaire, contemplating the many analogies between some crocodilian fossils and the recent gavials, has been led to propose the speculation that the