

of the head, and enormous length of the neck; the latter is composed of upwards of thirty bones, a number far exceeding that of the cervical vertebræ in any other known animal. This reptile combines in its structure the head of a lizard, with teeth like those of a crocodile, a neck resembling the body of a serpent, a trunk and tail of the proportions of those of a quadruped, with paddles like those of turtles. The vertebræ are longer and less concave than those of the ichthyosaurus, and the ribs, being connected by transverse abdominal processes, present a close analogy to those of the cameleon. Six or more known species of plesiosaurs have been determined.

The collection of Mr. Hawkins, now in the British Museum, contains a skeleton eleven feet long, and so nearly perfect, that the form of the original creature may readily be traced. Mr. Conybeare compares the plesiosaurus to a turtle stripped of its shell, and thinks it probable, from its long neck presenting considerable impediment to rapid progress in the water, that it frequented the coast, and lurked among the weeds in shallow water. As it is evident that it must have required frequent respiration, it probably swam on or near the surface, and darted down upon the fishes on which it preyed.

Ichthyosaurs and plesiosaurs have been found throughout the secondary strata, from the lias to the chalk inclusive; Lyme Regis, owing to the researches of Miss Anning, is the most celebrated