

Stems of several other genera of plants are found in the coal, the form and distribution of the markings of the leaves being very dissimilar to those I have described.*

36. *LEPIDODENDRON* (Tab. 126). — The most elegant and abundant of the fossil plants of the coal are the lepidodendra, so named from the scaly appearance of the stems, produced by the separation of the leaf-stalks. The scars are simple, lanceolate, rhomboidal, and arranged spirally around the stem; the latter is slight and tapering, and sometimes arborescent. The cones, or *stroboli*, so common in the ironstone nodules, are the fruit of these elegant trees. In the markings on the stems, the lepidodendra resemble the club-mosses (*Lycopodiaceæ*), which are herbaceous, prostrate plants, found in damp woods and bogs, having their leaves simple and imbricated—that is, lying over each other; the tropical species, which are the largest, do not attain a greater height than three or four feet.

Count Sternberg remarks, that we are unacquainted with any existing species of plant, which, like the lepidodendron, preserves at all ages, and throughout the whole extent of the trunk, the scars formed by the attachment of the petioles, or leaf-stalks, or the markings of the adhesion of the leaves themselves. The yucca, dracæna, and palm, entirely shed their scales when they are dried up, and there only remain circles, or rings, arranged round the

* See Dr. Buckland's Bridgewater Essay, vol. ii.