

to the families of *Sharks* and *Rays*. The osseous dorsal rays of cartilaginous fishes (named *Ichthyodorulites*, by Dr. Buckland and Sir H. De la Beche), first demand our notice.

ICHTHYODORULITES. *Lign.* 126.—This name is applied to the fossil spines, or rays, of the dorsal fins, of which numerous species occur in the Secondary and Tertiary deposits; they belong, for the most part, to extinct cartilaginous fishes. In the osseous tribes the dorsal spines have at their base two articular processes, by which they are united to the osselets that support them, as in the *Silurus*; but in the cartilaginous, they have no articulations at the base, and terminate in an obtuse point, which is implanted in the flesh; the posterior margin is grooved almost to the upper extremity. They are of a fibrous, osseous texture. The common *Spinax*, or Dog-fish (*Acanthias vulgaris*), has a spine of this kind in the front of each dorsal fin. The rays of the Sharks are compressed, and some have rows of teeth on the posterior margin. In the genus *Cestracion* (Port-Jackson Shark), the rays are strong, triangular, straight, pointed, rounded in front, flat at the posterior face, and widest at the base. In the RAYS the dorsal spines are flattened or depressed. The greater part of the fossil species of the Secondary formations belongs to the numerous family of Sharks.\* These spines are generally

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\* Poiss. Foss. Tom. III.