

parallel with the body ; and an osseous, or partially osseous, skeleton. In one division of this family, the body is either elongated or fusiform, the mouth furnished with brush-teeth only, and the tail heterocercal, or unequally bilobed (see p. 604.). To this group belong several genera, which are restricted to the Secondary formations more ancient than the Oolite ; while the other group, with homocercal tails, lived in the Oolitic and Cretaceous seas. Two genera, in particular, abound in the Triassic and Carboniferous strata ; namely, *Amblypterus* and *Palæoniscus*.

AMBLYPTERUS. *Wond.* p. 681. *Bd.* pl. 27<sup>b</sup>.—The fishes of this genus, as the name indicates, have very large and wide fins, composed of numerous rays. The scales are rhomboidal and finely enamelled ; the tail is heterocercal. The figures referred to convey a correct idea of the form and external characters. Beautiful pyritous imprints of *Amblypteri* occur in the Carboniferous slate of Saarbrück, in Lorraine ; and fine specimens in the ironstone nodules of the same locality. On the shore at Newhaven, near Leith, similar fossils occur in nodules washed out of the cliffs of coal-shale (*Bd.* p. 278.).

PALÆONISCUS. *Ly.* II. p. 98.—The fishes of this genus differ from those of *Amblypterus* in the relative moderate size of the scales, and the numerous little rays on their margins. They have rhomboidal scales, which in some species are very