

ancient marine fauna, whose remains abound in the secondary formations. Their relics have often been mistaken for those of reptiles; particularly the teeth, which from their large size, conical figure, enamelled and striated surface, and internal cavity, were generally supposed to belong to crocodiles. The scales are flat, rhomboidal, and parallel to the body. The recent *Lepidosteus osseus*, of North America, affords a good illustration of the fossil genera; a reduced figure of this fish, from *Poiss. Foss.*, will be found in *Bd.* pl. 27<sup>a</sup>.; and several teeth of fossil Sauroids are represented *Bd.* pl. 27.

The teeth of the Sauroids consist of two kinds; the pointed, striated cones, and numerous small brush-teeth. The intricate structure of the conical teeth of the *Stony-gar*, or *Lepidosteus*, is very remarkable, and presents a striking analogy to that discovered by Professor Owen in an extinct genus of reptiles, of which we shall treat in a subsequent chapter. The tooth consists of a large conical pulp-cavity, surrounded by a mass of dentine, which is plicated longitudinally, its folds giving to the pulp-cavity an appearance of being divided into parallel longitudinal branches; resembling, in this respect, the base of the tooth of *Ichthyosaurus*, as shown in a transverse section, Plate VI. fig. 9. If we imagine these folds to be multiplied, and to have more inflections, and the pulp-cavity to be reduced in its proportions, we shall have the elegant organization of the teeth of the *Labyrinthodonts* (see Plate VI.