

tion. The small intestines are then expelled by the evolved gases through the aperture, and soon become detached from the body. I have observed indistinct traces of similar remains in the beds of chalk in which fossil fishes most prevail. Dr. Buckland mentions the discovery, by Lord Greenock, of a mass of petrified intestines distended with coprolite, and surrounded by the scales of a fish, in a block of coal-shale from the neighbourhood of Edinburgh (*Bd.* p. 199.).

DERCETIS ELONGATUS. *Wond.* p. 335.—Before proceeding to the investigation of examples of the next order, I will describe a highly interesting Ichthyolite, which in a mutilated state is extremely common in some of the chalk strata of the Southeast of England; it is noticed in *Foss. South D.* p. 232. This fish is placed by M. Agassiz in his family of ganoidians, termed *Scleroderms*; and he mentions that another species has been found in the chalk of Westphalia. The *Dercetis* has a very elongated body, with a short head terminating in a pointed beak; the upper jaw is a little longer than the lower, and both jaws are armed with long, conical, elevated teeth, and several rows of very small ones. On the sides of the fish there are three rows of osseous scutcheons like those of the Sturgeon (see *Wond.* p. 335.); the body was also covered with numerous small scales. From the form of the body somewhat resembling that of the eel, being very long, and subcylindrical in uncompressed examples,