

“vertebral column are combined with a Lacertian type of the pectoral arch. The dental organs also exhibit the same transitional or connecting characters, in a greater or lesser degree. The bones of the extremities are of large proportional size for Saurians; they have large medullary cavities, and with well developed and unusual processes, and are terminated by metacarpal, metatarsal, and phalangeal bones, which, with the exception of the ungueal phalanges, more or less resemble those of the heavy pachydermal mammalia; and attest, with the hollow long-bones, the terrestrial habits of the species.

“The combinations of such characters,—some, as the sacral ones, altogether peculiar among Reptiles,—others borrowed, as it were, from groups now distinct from each other—and all manifested by creatures far surpassing in size the largest of existing reptiles, will, it is presumed, be deemed sufficient ground for establishing a distinct tribe, or sub-order, of Saurian Reptiles.

“Of this tribe, the principal and best established genera are the *Megalosaurus*, the *Hylæosaurus*, and the *Iguanodon*; the gigantic *Crocodile-lizards* of the dry land: whose peculiarities of osteological structure distinguish them as clearly from the living terrestrial and amphibious Saurians, as the opposite modifications for an aquatic life, characterise the extinct Enaliosaurians, or marine lizards.”\*

The elaborate investigation of the fossil remains of these stupendous beings, and the luminous exposition of their organization and physiological relations, embodied in the report to which the above extract is introductory, must be regarded as among the most important contributions to Palæontology; and afford a striking example of the successful application

---

\* Brit. Assoc. Rep. 1841, p. 103.