

organized reptiles than the Saurians of the Crocodilian order; and their dermal covering consists of a finer and more delicate squamous integument. They are also characterised by important modification in their osteological structure. The spinal column is almost always composed of concavo-convex vertebræ, with the convexity behind; the ribs are slender and rounded, having a single convex tubercle of attachment. The fossil species are, for the most part, of gigantic dimensions, and deviate in a striking manner from any that now exist. Vertebræ of the recent lacertian type are very rare in the secondary strata; I believe a few in my cabinet, obtained from the sandstone of Tilgate Forest, and which must have belonged to a very small unknown reptile, are the most ancient examples at present known.

MOSASAURUS. *Wond.* p. 299.—The fossil lizard of Maestricht, named *Mosasaurus* (lizard of the Meuse), from the river adjacent to the quarries of St. Peter's Mountain, in which its remains have been discovered, is briefly described, *Wond.* pp. 297—301. A specimen, with the jaws, and bones of the palate armed with teeth, now in the museum at Paris, has long been celebrated; and is still the most precious relic of this extinct reptile hitherto discovered; a small, but faithful representation is given *Bd.* pl. 20, and *Wond.* p. 299. The specimen is four and a half feet long, and two and a half feet wide; it consists of both sides of the lower jaw, with the