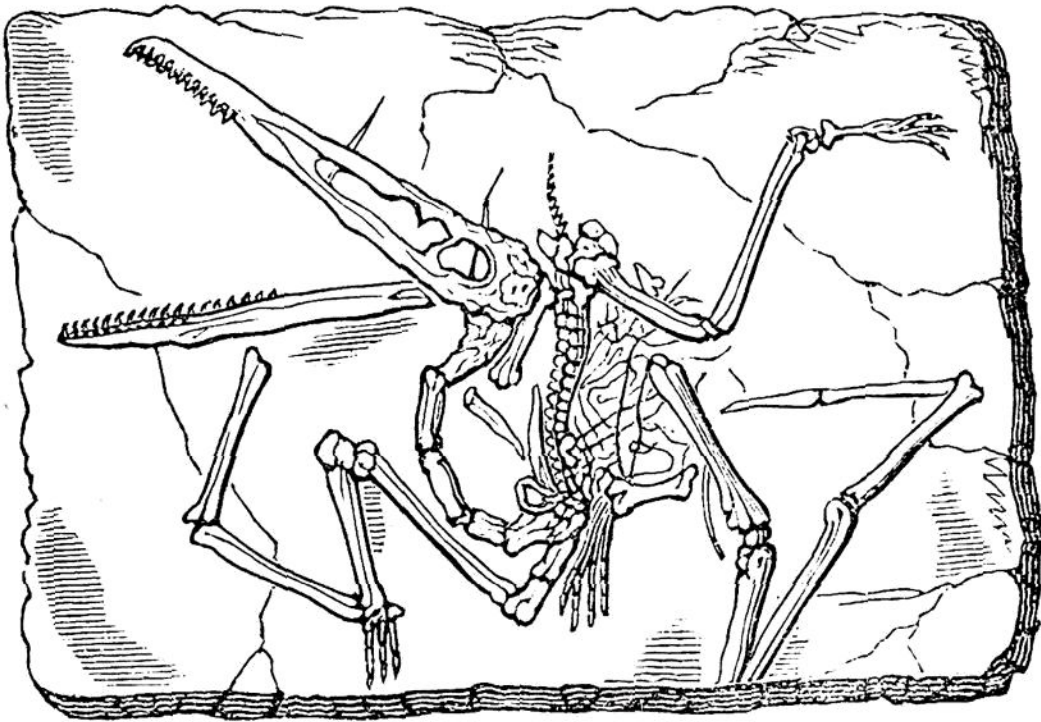


commenced his researches, hoping to obtain other bones of the newly-discovered genus, and in 1821 published a memoir conjointly with M. De la Beche, describing its characters. At this time the head was wanting, but in the following year he obtained one that was tolerably perfect. In the year 1824, Miss Anning, of Lyme Regis, found a skeleton, nearly entire, by which Mr. Conybeare was able to complete his inquiries : such is the history of the circumstances by which we were made acquainted with the plesiosaurus.

THE PTERODACTYLUS.

The pterodactylus was a flying animal, which had the wings of a bat, and the structure of a reptile ; jaws with sharp teeth, and claws with long hooked nails. The power which



The skeleton of the Pterodactylus.

it had of flying was not by means of its ribs, nor by wings without fingers, as in birds, but by wings supported by one very elongated toe, the others being short and furnished with claws. The remains of this animal were brought under examination by M. Collini, Director of the Museum of the Elector Palatine at Manheim. There was at first some discussion as to the actual character of the animal. M. Blumen-