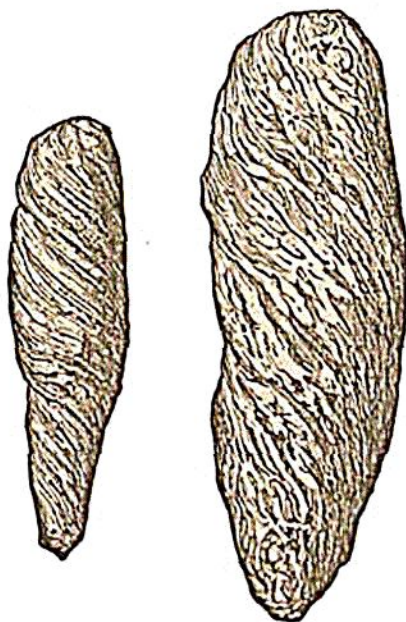


On exactly the same grounds I infer, that certain large coprolites of common occurrence in the Thurso flagstones, which contain the broken scales of Dipterians, and exhibit a curiously twisted form, (fig. 44,) also belonged to the *Asterolepis* ;

Fig. 44.



COPROLITES OF ASTEROLEPIS.

(Nat. Size.*)

and from these, that the creature was carnivorous in its habits,—an inference which the character of its teeth fully corroborates; and farther, that, like the sharks and rays, and some of the extinct Enaliosaurs, it possessed the spiral disposition of intestine. Paley, in his chapter on the compensatory contrivances palpable in the structure of various animals, refers to a peculiar substitutory provision which occurs in a

* One of the Thurso coprolites in my possession is about one fourth longer than the larger of the two specimens figured here, and nearly thrice as broad.