

I am acquainted with four species of *Coccosteus* — *C. decipiens*, *C. cuspidatus*, *C. oblongus*, and a variety not yet named; and many more species may yet be discovered.\* Of all the existences of the formation, this curious fish seems to have been one of the most abundant. In a few square yards of rock I have laid open portions of the remains of a dozen different individuals belonging to two of the four species, the *C. decipiens* and *C. cuspidatus*, in the course of a single evening. None of the other kinds have yet been found at Cromarty. These two differed from each other in the proportions which their general bulk bore to their length — slightly, too, in the arrangement of their occipital plates. The *Coccosteus latus*, as the name implies, must have been by much a massier fish than the other; and we find the arch-like form of the plates which covered its head more complete: the plate representing the keystone rests on the saddle-shaped plate in the centre, and the plates representing the spring stones of the arch exhibit a broader base. The accompanying print (Plate III.) represents the *Coccosteus cuspidatus*. The average length of the creature, including the tail, as shown in most of the Cromarty specimens, somewhat exceeded a foot. A few detached plates from Orkney, in the collection of Dr. Traill, must have belonged to an individual of fully twice that length.†

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\* A fifth species has been named *C. maximus*. † See Note C.

which still solicits inquiry as not yet definitely accounted for. The matter of fact in the case is certainly one which should be determined, not analogically, but on its own proper evidence, as furnished by good specimens. As for the remark regarding the probable position of the creature's jaws, it was ventured on at first, as the reader may perceive, with much hesitation, and must now be regarded as more doubtful.