

common. It seems relieved into ridges that drop down as if like sculptured threads, some of them entire, some broken some straight, some slightly waved, (see Plate V., fig. 3;) and hence the name of the ichthyolite. The plates of the head were ornamented in a similar style, but their threads are so broken as to present the appearance of dotted lines, the dots all standing out in bold relief. My collection contains three varieties of this family; one of them disinterred from out the Cromarty beds about seven years ago, and the others only a little later, though partly from the inadequacy of a written description, through which I was led to confound the *Osteolepis* with the *Diplopterus*, and to regard the *Glyptolepis* as the *Osteolepis*, I was not aware until lately that the discovery was really such; and under the latter name I described the creature in the *Witness* newspaper several weeks ere it had received the name which it now bears. It was first introduced to the notice of Agassiz, in Autumn last, by Lady Cumming of Altyre. The species, however, was a different one from any yet found at Cromarty.*

The *Cheirolepis*, or scaly pectoral, forms the representative of yet another family of the Lower Old Red Sandstone, and one which any eye, however unpractised, could at once distinguish from the families just described. Professor Traill of the University of Edinburgh, a gentleman whose researches in Natural History have materially extended the boundaries of knowledge, and whose frankness in communicating information is only equalled by his facility in acquiring it, was the first discoverer of this family, one variety of which the *Cheirolepis Traillii*, bears his name. The figured speci-

* There are three species of *Glyptolepis* — *G. elegans*, *G. leptopterus*, and *G. microlepidotus*