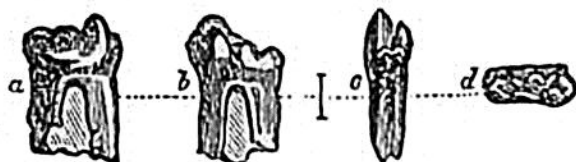
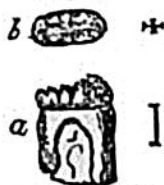


Fig. 440.



*Microlestes antiquus*, Plieninger. Molar tooth magnified. Upper Trias, Diegerloch, near Stuttgart, Würtemberg.  
 a. View of inner side?      b. Same, outer side?  
 c. Same in profile.      d. Crown of same.

Fig. 441.



*Microlestes antiquus*, Plien.  
 View of same molar as No. 440. From a drawing by Hermann Von Meyer.  
 a. View of inner side?  
 b. Crown of same.

Professor Plieninger inferred in 1847, from the double fangs of this tooth and their unequal size, and from the form and number of the protuberances or cusps on the flat crowns, that it was the molar of a Mammifer; and considering it as predaceous, probably insectivorous, he calls it *Microlestes*, from μικρος, little, and ληστής, a beast of prey. Soon afterwards, he found the second tooth, also at the same locality, Diegerloch, about two miles to the southeast of Stuttgart. Some of its cusps are broken, but there seem to have been six of them originally. From its agreement in general characters, it is supposed by Professor Plieninger to be referable to the same animal, but as it is four times as big, it may perhaps have belonged to another allied species. This molar is attached to the matrix consisting of sandstone, whereas the tooth, fig. 440, is isolated. Several fragments of bone, differing in structure from that of the associated saurians and fish, and believed to be mammalian, were imbedded near them in the same rock.

Fig. 442.



Molar of *Microlestes?* Plien. 4 times as large as the fig. 440. From the trias of Diegerloch, Stuttgart.

Mr. Waterhouse of the British Museum, after studying the annexed figs. 440, 441, 442, and the descriptions of Prof. Plieninger, observes, that not only the double roots of the teeth, and their crowns presenting several cusps, resemble those of Mammalia, but the cingulum also, or ridge surrounding the base of that part of the body of the tooth which was exposed or above the gum, is a character distinguishing them from fish and reptiles. "The arrangement of the six cusps or tubercles in two rows, in fig. 440, with a groove or depression between them, and the oblong form of the tooth, lead him, he says, to regard it as a molar of the lower jaw. Both the teeth differ from those of the Stonesfield Mammalia, but do not supply sufficient data for determining to what order they belonged.

Professor Plieninger has sent me a cast of the smaller tooth, which exhibits well the characteristic mammalian test, the double fang; but Prof. Owen, to whom I have shown it, is not able to recognize its affinity with any mammalian type, recent or extinct, known to him.

It has already been stated that the stratum in which the above-mentioned fossils occur is intermediate between the lias and the uppermost