

433. New Holland, with its marsupial mammals, with which are associated insects and mollusks no less singular furnishes a fauna still more peculiar, and which has no similarity to those of any of the adjacent countries. In the seas of that continent, where every thing is so strange, we find the curious shark, with paved teeth and spines on the back, (*Cestracion Philippii*,) the only living representative of a family so numerous in former zoölogical ages. But a most remarkable feature of this fauna is, that the same types prevail over the whole continent, in its temperate as well as its tropical portions, the species only being different at different localities.

434. TROPICAL FAUNAS. — The tropical faunas are distinguished, on all the continents, by the immense variety of animals which they comprise, not less than by the brilliancy of their dress. All the principal types of animals are represented, and all contain numerous genera and species. We need only refer to the tribe of humming-birds, which numbers not less than 300 species. It is very important to notice, that here are concentrated the most perfect, as well as the oddest, types of all the classes of the Animal Kingdom. The tropical region is the only one occupied by the *Quadrumana*, the herbivorous bats, the great pachydermata, such as the elephant, the hippopotamus, and the tapir, and the whole family of *Edentata*. Here also are found the largest of the cat tribe, the lion and tiger. Among the Birds we may mention the parrots and toucans, as essentially tropical; among the Reptiles, the largest crocodiles, and gigantic tortoises; and finally, among the articulated animals, an immense variety of the most beautiful insects. The marine animals, as a whole, are equally superior to those of other regions; the seas teem with crustaceans and numerous cephalopods, together with an infinite variety of gasteropods and acephala. The Echinoderms there attain a magnitude