

Fig. 129.



SPHENOPTERIS BIFIDA.
(*Burdiehouse.*)

greatly resembles in general outline one of the larger pinnæ of *Sphenopteris affinis*; but these pinnæ form only a small part of the entire frond of this *Sphenopteris*. It was furnished with a stout leafless rachis, or leaf-stalk, exceedingly similar in form to that of our common brake (*Pteris aquilina*). So completely, indeed, did it exhibit the same club-like, slightly-bent termination, the same gradual diminution in thickness, and the same smooth surface, that one accustomed to see this part of the bracken used as a thatch can scarce doubt that the stipes of *Sphenopteris* would have served