

however, is established—namely, that these interesting and oldest Mammalia—the Pantotheria of Marsh, the Triassic Dromatheriidæ, and the Jurassic Triconodontidæ of Osborn—were small insectivorous mammals with a very primitive organization. Probably they were Monotremes, and may be derived directly from Permian Sauromammalia, an ill-defined mixture of Mammalia and Reptilia.

This generalized characteristic supports our view that *the whole class of Mammalia is monophyletic*, and that all its members, from the oldest Monotremes upwards to man, have descended from one common ancestor living in the older Triassic, or perhaps in the Permian, age. To acquire full conviction of this important conception, we have only to think of the hair and the glands of our human skin, of our diaphragm, the heart and the blood corpuscles without a nucleus, our skull with its squamoso-mandibular articulation. All these singular and striking modifications of the vertebrate organization are