

are characterized as follows : The paired fins still retain the archipterygial form (namely, one axis with biserial rays); the heart is already trilocular, and receives blood which is mixed arterial and venous, owing to the gills being retained, while the air-bladder has been modified into a lung. In fact, the generalized Dipnoi form the actual link between fishes and *Amphibia*.

15. *Amphibia*. The earliest amphibian fossils occur in the Carboniferous strata. They alone—the Stegocephali or Phractamphibia—stand in the ancestral line, while the Lissamphibia, to which all the recent forms belong, are side-branches. The Stegocephali are the earliest Tetrapoda, the archipterygial paired fins having been transformed into the pentadactyle fore and hind limbs, which are so characteristic of all the higher Vertebrata. The cranium is roofed over by dermal bones, of which, besides others, supra-occipitals, supra-orbitals, and supra-temporals are always present. The lowest members