

trunk, which sometimes measured five feet in diameter. Its stem was fluted (Fig. 368), and marked by parallel perpendicular lines of leaf-scars, but as it grew these external markings were lost. The base of the stem passes into the roots known as Stigmaria, the pitted and tubercled stems of which are such common fossils (Figs. 368 B, 369). There can be little doubt, however, that Stigmaria was a form of root common to more than one kind of tree. The genus *Cordaite*s belonged to a type of tree which by

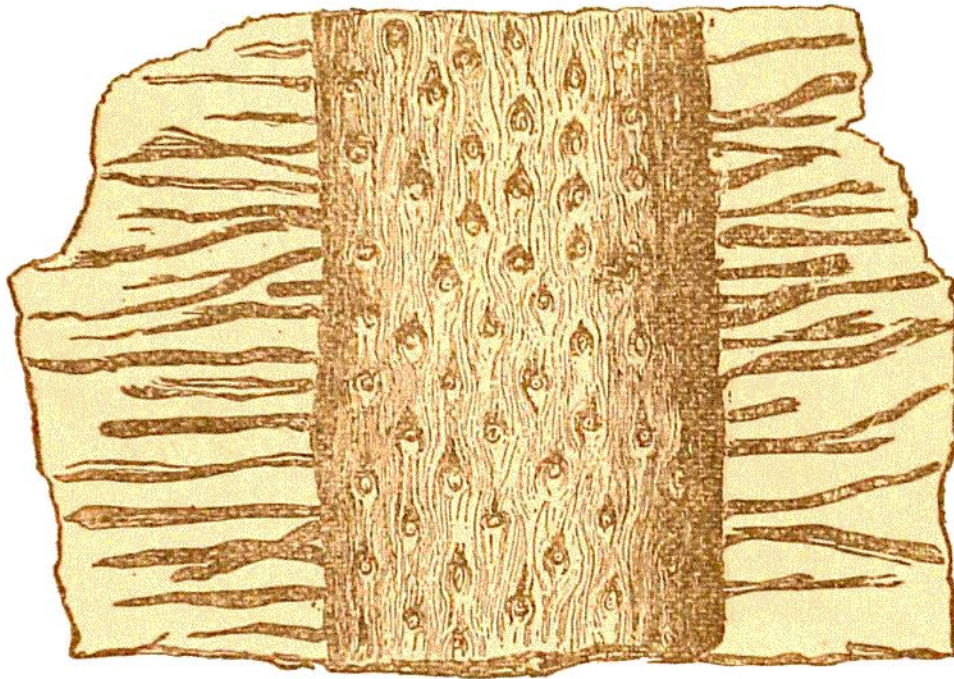


Fig. 369.—*Stigmaria* with attached rootlets.

some botanists has been placed among the cycads, by others among the conifers. It attained a great profusion in the time of the Coal-measures. Shooting up to a height of 20 or 30 feet, it carried narrow or broad, parallel-veined leaves, somewhat like those of a *Yucca*, which were attached by broad bases at somewhat wide distances to the stem, and on their fall left prominent leaf-scars. It bore catkins (*Antholithus*) which ripened into berries not unlike those of *Yews* (*Cardiocarpus*) (Fig. 371). Both of these forms of fructification occur in great abundance in some