

Mesozoic formations have been classed as belonging to the "Age of Cycads." Calcareous algæ (*Gyroporella*, etc.) abounded in the open seas of the time and contributed to the growth of limestone reefs.

The fauna is exceedingly scanty in the red sandy and marly strata of the central European Trias, and comparatively poor in forms, though often abundant in individuals,

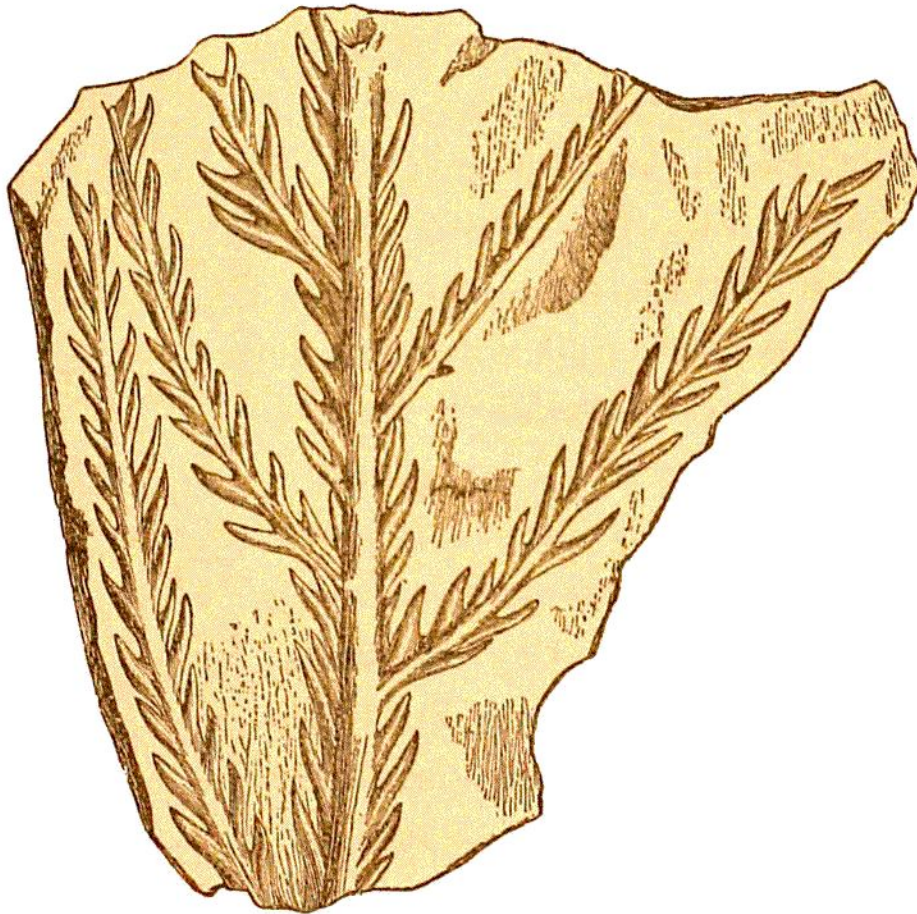


Fig. 378.—*Voltzia heterophylla*, Brongn.

in the calcareous zones of the same region. From the Alpine development, a much more varied suite of organisms has been disinterred. Some of the Alpine limestones are full of foraminifera (*Orbulina*, *Globigerina*), others contain numerous calcareous sponges (*Eudea*, *Verticellites*, *Pernella*, etc.). Corals abound in some localities in the same rocks, occasionally forming true reefs. Echinoderms are plentiful among the limestones, particularly crinoid-stems,