

They were first recognised by Cuvier, and referred to the genus *Didelphys* in 1818, from a specimen obtained by W. J. Broderip, and given to Buckland. The discovery, however, created some consternation, and a long controversy arose. The geological age of the stratum was at first questioned, and when that was settled, the zoological affinities of the fossil were disputed by Agassiz, De Blainville, and R. E. Grant. De Blainville, who proposed the name *Amphitherium* on account of the 'ambiguous nature' of the remains, thought they most likely belonged to a Saurian; but although Cuvier's opinion was supported by Buckland, it was not until 1838, when Owen described the original specimen together with a second fossil that had been found by Broderip, and others afterwards obtained, that the matter was set at rest. The genus *Amphitherium* was retained (although in place of it the name *Botheratiotherium* had been suggested by Charlesworth); and other genera were established. John Phillips also called attention to the fact that a specimen, now named *Amphilestes Broderipi*, had been obtained about the year 1764 by Joshua Platt, and had been deposited in the York Museum.

Among other specially noteworthy discoveries at this period was that of the *Megalosaurus*, found in the Stonesfield Slate, near Oxford, and described by Buckland in 1824. Many years later, restorations of this, and of other extinct monsters, were made by B. Waterhouse Hawkins, for the geological garden at the Crystal Palace; the *Megalosaurus* being represented to be thirty-seven feet in length, including five feet of head, and fifteen feet of tail, while the girth was twenty-two feet six inches.¹ In 1853, Owen and twenty others dined in the interior of the *Iguanodon* to celebrate the completion of the restorations. Such models, as well as pictorial representations, have proved attractive to many writers since Thomas Hawkins (1810-89), a somewhat eccentric Fellow of the Society, in

¹ Owen, 'Geology and Inhabitants of the Ancient World,' 1854; 'Life of Owen,' vol. i. p. 399; and Geikie, 'Life of Edward Forbes,' p. 531.