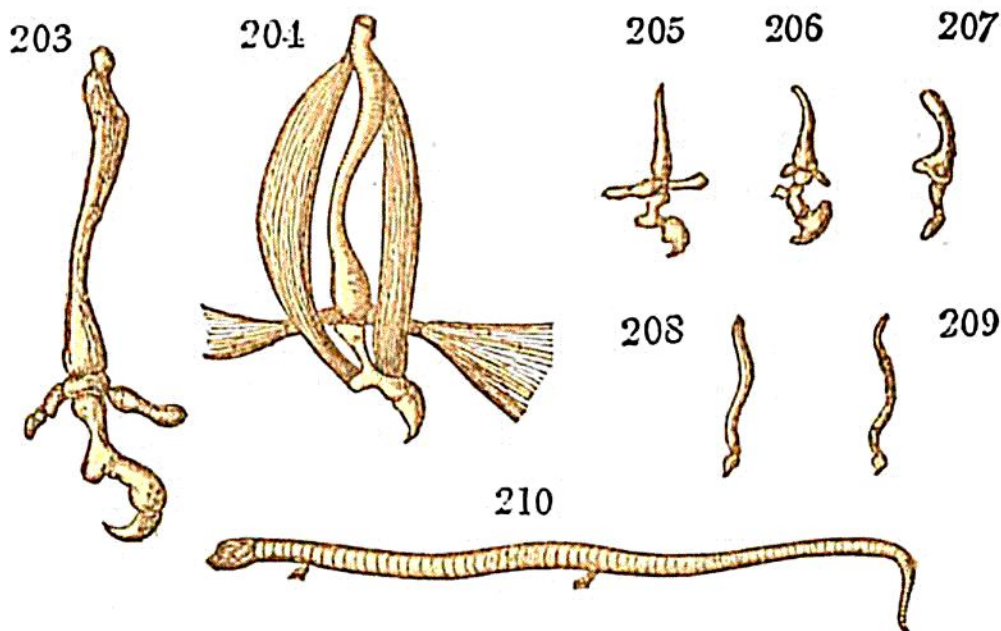


the skin. In others, he has discovered cartilaginous filaments, which he conceives to correspond to these parts.*

In the conformation of the skull and bones of the face, serpents present strong analogies with batrachian reptiles, and also with fishes, one tribe of which, namely, the apodous or anguiform fishes, they greatly resemble by the length and flexibility of the spine. These peculiarities of conformation may be traced in a great measure to the mode of life for which they are destined. The food assigned to them is living prey, which they must attack and vanquish before they can convert it into nourishment. The usual mode in which the boa seizes and destroys its victims is by coiling the hinder part of its body round the trunk or branch of a tree, keeping the head and anterior half of the body

* Some of these rudimental parts are represented in the following figures. Fig. 203 exhibits the claw of the *Boa constrictor*, placed at the termination of a series of bones, representing very imperfectly the bones of the lower extremities. Fig. 204 shows the muscles attached to these small bones.



The three following figures, 205, 206, and 207, represent the claws and rudimental bones of the *Tortrix scytale*, *Tortrix corallinus*, and *Anguis fragilis*, respectively. Those of the *Amphisbæna alba*, Fig. 208, and the *Coluber pullatus*, Fig. 209, are still less developed. The *Chalcides*, or snake lizard, which has four minute feet, is represented in Fig. 210. (Ann. des Sc. Nat. vii. 170.)