

§ 4. *Sauria*.

THE conformation of those parts of the frame which are subservient to progressive motion becomes more perfect in the class of Saurian reptiles, which includes all the Lizard tribes. Several links of connexion with the preceding class may still be noticed, marking the progress of development, as we follow the ascending series of animals. Rudiments of the bones of the extremities, and, also, of the sternum, make their appearance very visibly in the *Ophiosaurus*, and in the blind worm, (*Anguis fragilis*.) The *Siren lacertina* has two diminutive fore feet, placed close to the head. The *Lacerta lumbricoides* of Linnæus, or the *Bipes canaliculatus* of Lacepede, which is found in Mexico, and of which a specimen is preserved in the collection at Paris, has a pair of very short feet, also placed near the head, and divided into four toes, with the rudiment of a fifth. The *Lacerta bipes* (Linn.) or *Sheltopusie* of Pallas. has, on the other hand, a pair of hind feet only, but extremely small, together with rudiments of a scapula and clavicle concealed under the skin. Next in order must be placed the *Chalcides*, or Snake-lizard, (Fig. 210,) and the *Lacerta seps*, animals frequently met with in the South of France, and which have four minute feet, totally inefficient for the support of the body, and only remotely useful in contributing to its progressive undulations.

Ascending from these, we may form a series of reptiles, in which the development of the limbs becomes more and more extended, till we arrive at Crocodiles, in which they attain a considerable degree of perfection. As a consequence of this greater development of the skeleton, we find the trunk divisible into separate regions. We now, for the first time, meet with a distinct neck, separating the head from the thorax, which is itself distinguishable from the abdomen; and a distinct sacrum is interposed between the lumbar and the caudal vertebræ.