

tained to be dorsal spines of Fishes, and from their supposed defensive office, like those of the genus *Balistes* and *Silurus*, have been named *Ichthyodorulites*.

M. Agassiz has at length referred all these bodies to extinct genera in the great family of Sharks, a family which he separates into three sub-families, each containing forms peculiar to certain geological epochs, and which change simultaneously with the other great changes in fossil remains.

The first and oldest sub-family, *Cestracionts*, beginning with the Transition strata, appears in every subsequent formation, till the commencement of the Tertiary, and has only one living representative, viz. the *Cestracion Philippi*, or Port Jackson Shark. (Pl. 1. Fig. 18.) The second family, *Hybodonts*, beginning with the Muschel-kalk, and perhaps with the Coal formation, prevails throughout the Oolite series, and ceases at the commencement of the Chalk. The third family of "*Squaloids*," or true Sharks, commences with the Cretaceous formation, and extends through the Tertiary strata into the actual creation.*

* The character of the *Cestracionts* is marked by the presence of large polygonal obtuse enamelled teeth, covering the interior of the mouth with a kind of tessellated pavement. (Pl. 27^d. A. 1, 3, 4, and Pl. 27^d, B. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.) In some species not less than sixty of these teeth occupied each jaw. They are rarely found connected together in a fossil state, in consequence of the