

SECTION IV.

Fourth Class of Articulated Animals.

FOSSIL INSECTS.*

ALTHOUGH the numerical amount of living Insects forms so vast a majority of the inhabitants of the present land, few traces of this large class of Articulated animals have yet been discovered in a fossil state. This may probably result from the circumstance, that the greatest portion of fossil animal remains are derived from the inhabitants of *salt water*, a medium in which only one or two species of Insects are now supposed to live.

Had no indications of Insects been discovered in a fossil state, the presence in any strata, of Scorpions or Spiders, both belonging to families constructed to feed on Insects, would have afforded a strong *à priori* argument, in favour of the probability, of the contemporaneous existence of that very numerous class of animals, which now forms the prey of the Arachnidans. This probability has been recently confirmed by the discovery of two Coleoptera of the family Curculionidæ in the Iron-stone of Coalbrook

* See Pl. 10th. Figs. 1, 2, & 4.—11.