

Gills, temporary. *Ribs*, rudimental. *Legs*, four. Undergoes a *metamorphosis*.

Order 3.—*Ophidians*. (*Snakes and Serpents*.)

Body, covered with scales, without legs. *Ribs*, moveable. *Mouth*, armed with teeth. Cast their skin.

Order 4.—*Saurians*. (Two-footed and four-footed *Lizards*, of various kinds; *Crocodiles*, *Alligators*, &c.)

Body, covered with scales, or scaly grains, terminating in a tail. *Ribs*, moveable; *mouth*, armed with teeth. *Legs*, 2—4.

Order 5.—*Chelonians*. (*Turtles and Tortoises*.)

Body, protected above by a *carapace*, or shield, formed by the ribs, and below by a *plastron*, or dilated sternum. *Mouth*, without teeth. *Mandibles*, rostriform. *Legs* or *paddles*, four.

Though the *Malacoderm*, or soft-coated Reptiles, appear the legitimate successors of the Fishes, yet there are some others in the higher Orders that seem to lead off towards them also, for the *Ophidians* and *Apod* fishes evidently tend towards each other. The *Cæcilia*, or blind serpent, too, is almost uniauriculate, and has only some transverse rows of scales between the wrinkles of its skin.*

From this statement, it seems that the Class of Reptiles is connected with the Fishes, not by those at the top of the latter Class, but by those at its base; with the Osseans by the Apods, and with the Cartilagineans by the Cyclostomes; so that they may be almost regarded as forming a parallel line with them, instead of succeeding them in the same series. Even the proper Batrachians seem to tend to the Chelonians, while the Salamanders look to the Saurians.

The great body of the Class are predaceous, subsisting

* Règne Anim. ii. 99.