

and thick, while the other bones are flattened, and closely set like the stones in a pavement, so as to form, when enveloped with the skin, fins of a single piece, almost incapable of bending; analogous, in short, both as to use and organization, to those of cetacea. These reptiles have lived in the sea; on shore, they could only at most have crept in the hobbling manner of seals; at the same time after they have respired elastic air.

The remains of four species have been found:

The most extensively distributed (*I. communis*) has blunt conical teeth; its length sometimes exceeds twenty feet.

The second (*I. platyodon*), which is at least as large as the former, has compressed teeth, with round and bulging roots.

The third (*I. tenuirostris*), has slender and pointed teeth, and the muzzle thin and elongated.

The fourth (*I. intermedius*), is, as its name implies, intermediate between the last species and the common, with respect to the form of its teeth. The two latter species do not attain half the size of the two first.

The *plesiosaurus*, discovered by Mr Conybeare, must have appeared still more monstrous than the ichthyosaurus. It had the same limbs, but somewhat more elongated and more flexible; its shoulder and pelvis were more robust; its