

The conical teeth are extremely variable in size and form ; some are slender, almost invisible points, distributed like the pile of velvet (*villous-teeth*), or set like the hairs of a brush (*brush-teeth*), or long, slender bristles, or barbed at the point ; others are obtuse ; and many are long and striated at the base, and closely resemble the teeth of certain reptiles. The depressed teeth are equally diversified ; some have the grinding surface smooth ; others, deeply grooved ; in some it is flat ; in others convex. In form they are either lozenge-shaped, elliptical, square, oblong, semilunar, &c. The cylindrical teeth are hemispherical, or flattened ; in some fishes they are short and thick ; in others slender, and support an obtuse, conical crown. The prismatic form is equally modified ; from the compressed, sharp, lanceolate, cutting teeth, to the strong, triangular, three-pointed dentary organs.

The mode of arrangement and attachment of the teeth, is as diversified as their forms. In some species all the teeth are of one type, and disposed in somewhat of a serial order on both sides of the jaws ; but in a large proportion of fishes there are several kinds of teeth, which are implanted not only in the jaws, properly so called, but on the bones which form the cavity of the mouth, the arches of the palate, tongue, &c. ; and it is peculiar to the present class

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would thoroughly comprehend this most interesting department of science.