

tologist to arrive at secure conclusions as to the characters and relations of the fossil species.* We can only advert to one remarkable osteological character; the construction of the shoulder, which differs from that of all other animals, in being situated within the cavity of the thorax, instead of without. In consequence of this modification, a process of the shoulder-blade (*scapula*, or *omoplate*), termed the *acromion*, is largely developed, and the shoulder-bone is tri-mucronate, or three-pronged, consisting of a short, thick head, containing a concavity (which, with that on the coracoid-bone, forms a socket for the arm-bone), and of two diverging branches. This form is so peculiar, that the collector can be at no loss to recognise the shoulder-bone of a *Chelonian*, should it come under his notice with other fossil relics (see *Foss. Til. For.* pl. 19. fig. 11.). But this shoulder-bone, and its associated coracoid-bone, undergo certain modifications, in the three groups of Turtles, by which the anatomist may pretty certainly determine the terrestrial, fluviatile, or marine character of the animals to which they belonged. The successful application of a perfect knowledge of this department of osteology,

* The student should consult *Cuvier's Ossemens Fossiles*, Tom. V. part 2^me. chap. 2, p. 176; "*Des Ossemens de Tortue.*" The Penny Cyclopædia, Art. "*Tortoises*," contains an excellent summary of the osteology of these reptiles; also an abstract of Professor Owen's report on "*Fossil Testudinata.*"