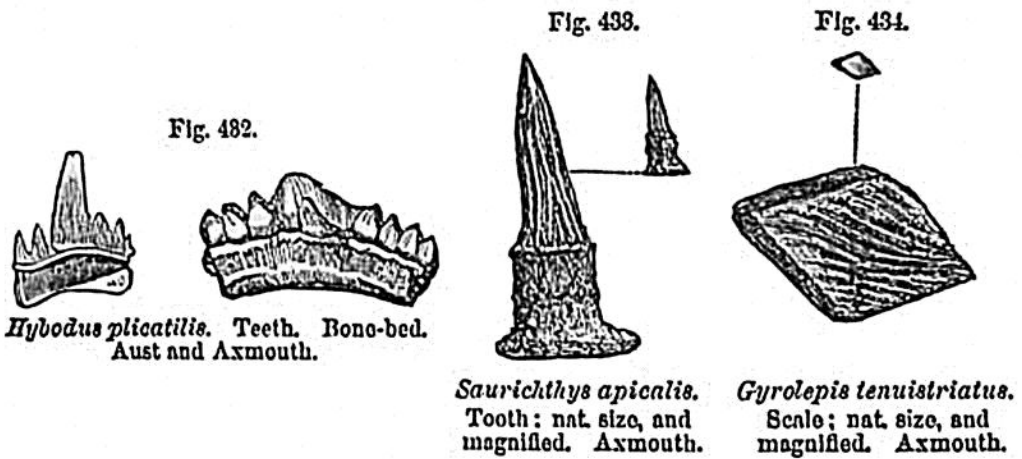


Aust, in Gloucestershire, on the banks of the Severn, a dark-colored stratum, well known by the name of the "bone-bed." It abounds in the remains of saurians and fish, and was formerly classed as the lowest bed of the Lias; but Sir P. Egerton has shown that it should be referred to the Upper New Red Sandstone, for it contains an assemblage of fossil fish which are either peculiar to this stratum or belong to species well known in the Muschelkalk of Germany. These fish belong to the genera *Acrodus*, *Hybodus*, *Gyrolepis*, and *Saurichthys*.

Among those common to the English bone-bed and the Muschelkalk of Germany are *Hybodus plicatilis* (fig. 432), *Saurichthys apicalis* (fig. 433), *Gyrolepis tenuistriatus* (fig. 434), and *G. Albertii*. Remains of saurians have also been found in the bone-bed, and plates of an *Encrinurus*.



The strata of red and green marl, which follow the bone-bed in the descending order at Axmouth and Aust, are destitute of organic remains; as is the case, for the most part, in the corresponding beds in almost every part of England. But fossils have been found at a few localities in sandstones of this formation, in Worcestershire and Warwickshire, and among them the bivalve shell called *Posidonia minuta*, Goldf., before mentioned (fig. 426, p. 334).

The upper member of the English "New Red" containing this shell, in those parts of England, is, according to Messrs. Murchison and Strickland, 600 feet thick, and consists chiefly of red marl or slate, with a band of sandstone. Ichthyodorulites, or spines of *Hybodus*, teeth of fishes, and footprints of reptiles were observed by the same geologists in these strata;* and the remains of a saurian, called *Rhynchosaurus*, have been found in this portion of the Trias at Grinsell, near Shrewsbury.

In Cheshire and Lancashire the gypseous and saliferous red shales and clays of the Trias are between 1000 and 1500 feet thick. In some places lenticular masses of rock-salt are interpolated between the argillaceous beds, the origin of which will be spoken of in the sequel.

The lower division or English representative of the "Bunter" attains

* Geol. Trans., Sec. Ser., vol. v. p. 318, &c.