

Fig. 251.

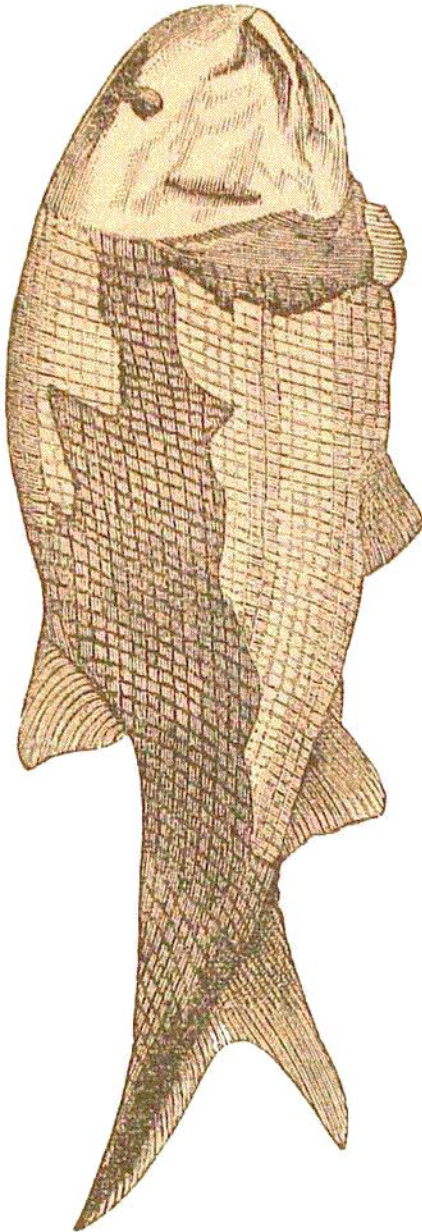
*Palæoniscus Duvernoi.*

Fig. 252.

*Amblypterus macropterus.*

into the upper lobe of the tail, as may be seen in the above figures. This makes the tail unsymmetrical, or as it is usually styled, *heterocercal*. Above the Permian this peculiarity is rarely seen, though among living fishes it is possessed by the sharks, the dog-fishes, and sturgeons. But most living species, as well as the fossil, from the Permian upward, have symmetrical or *homocercal* tails; that is, the vertebral column terminates at the middle of the base of the tail, as an examination of some of the figures of fishes we shall present in the higher formations (see Figs. 289, 290) will show.