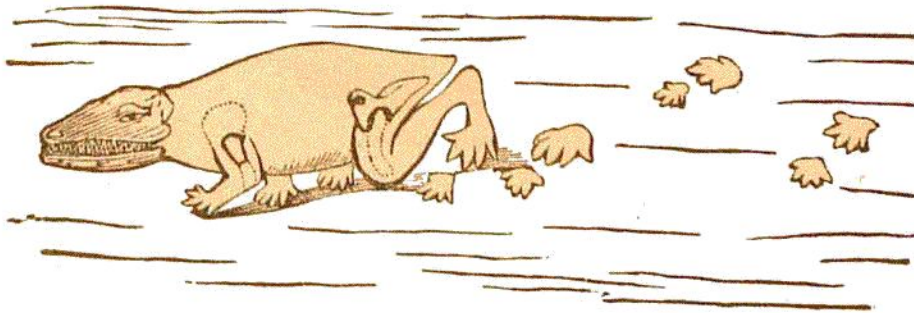


Carolina sandstones, with the reptilian remains already described. This, also, comes nearest to the *Myrmecobius* among living animals. Prof. Emmons is inclined to place it in the lower part of the trias, or even in the Permian, and it is probably the oldest known mammal.

*Lithichnozoa*.—Early in the history of footmarks some were found in the new red sandstone of Hildburghausen in Saxony, having such a resemblance to the human hand that Professor Kaup gave to the animal that made them the name of *Cheirotherium* or *hand animal*. The fore and hind feet were quite unequal, as shown below in Fig. 267, which is *Cheirotherium Barthii*.

Similar tracks were subsequently found in Cheshire, England; also those of the three-toed reptile, *Rhynchosaurus*. Crustacean tracks were likewise found in Cheshire; also some resembling a horse-shoe by Dr. Cotta in Saxony, which may have been made by *Chalonians*. Prof. Owen suggests that the *Cheirotherian* tracks may have been made by the *Labyrinthodon* above described. But such an animal would leave two rows of tracks, whereas those of the *Cheirotherium* form only a single row, as in the above figure, and, it would seem, must have been made by an animal with narrow body and long legs like some marsupials, and not by such an animal as that in Fig. 268, which is the *Labyrinthodon* as restored by Prof. Owen.

FIG. 268.



*Labyrinthodon pachygnathus.*

#### 8. JURASSIC OR OOLITIC PERIOD, EMBRACING THE WEALDEN AND THE LIAS.

This formation is very prolific of fossils. Among so many that are interesting we find it difficult to make a selection.

*Plants*.—The vegetation of this period was not remarkable as to quantity; but it was characterized by the predominance of *Coniferæ*, or the Pine tribe, and of *Cycadaceæ*, both of which are *Gymnosperms*, or with naked seeds. While only two genera and twenty species of the latter are found among living plants, thirty-four species occur in the Oolite and four in the chalk of Great Britain, where no living species is found. Fig. 269 will give an idea of a living species, the *Cycas revoluta*.