

numbers and the small size of the shells, a change of condition in the nature of the waters in which they lived. "It was the central part only," says Sir R. Murchison, "of this band, or a ginger-bread-coloured layer of a thickness of three or four inches, and dwindling away to a quarter of an inch, exhibiting, when my attention was first directed to it, a matted mass of bony fragments, for the most part of

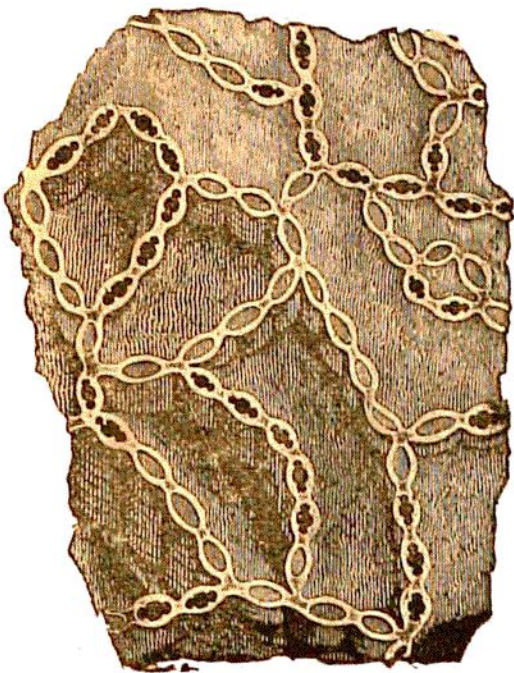


Fig. 26.—*Halysites catenularius*.

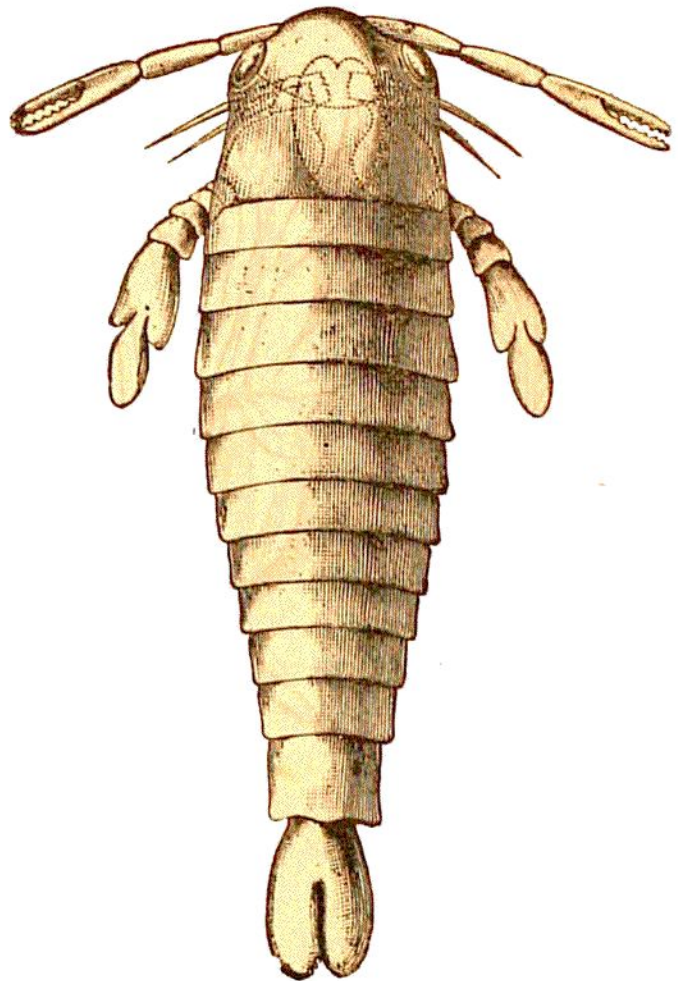


Fig. 27.—*Pterygotus bilobatus*.

small size and of very peculiar character. Some of the fragments of fish are of a mahogany hue, but others of so brilliant a black that when first discovered they conveyed the impression that the bed was a heap of broken beetles.\*

The fragments thus discovered were, after examination on the spot, supposed to be those of fishes, but, upon further investigation, many of them were found to belong to Crustaceans. The ichthyic nature of some of them is, however, now well established.

\* "Siluria," p 148.