

Rudistes (Lamarck), and of immense quantities of various kinds of corals which are everywhere associated with them. The Polyyps, in short, attain here one of the principal epochs of their existence, and present a remarkable development of forms; the same occurs with the Polyzoa (Bryozoa) and Amorphozoa; while, on the contrary, the reign of the Cephalopods seems to end. Beautiful types of these ancient reefs have been revealed to us, and we discover that they have been formed under the influence of submarine currents, which accumulated masses of these animals at certain points. Nothing is more curious than this assemblage of *Rudistes*—still standing erect, isolated or in groups—as may be seen, for instance, at the summit of the mountains of the *Cornes* in the Corbières, upon the banks of the pond of Berre in Provence, and in the environs of Martigues, at La Cadière, at Figuières, and particularly above Beausset, near Toulon.

“It seems,” says Alcide D’Orbigny, “as if the sea had retired in order to show us, still intact, the submarine fauna of this period, such as it was when in life. There are here enormous groups of *Hippurites* in their places, surrounded by Polyyps, Echinoderms, and Molluscs, which lived in union in these animal colonies, analogous to those which still exist in the coral-reefs of the Antilles and Oceania. In order that these groups should have been preserved intact, they must first have been covered suddenly by sediment, which, being removed by the action of the atmosphere, reveals to us, in their most secret details, this Nature of the past.”

In the Jurassic period we have already met with these isles or reefs formed by the accumulation of Coral and other Zoophytes; they even constituted, at that period, an entire formation called the *Coral-rag*. The same phenomenon, reproduced in the Cretaceous seas, gave rise to similar calcareous formations. We need not repeat what we have said already on this subject when describing the Jurassic period. The coral or madreporé isles of the Jurassic epoch and the reefs of Rudistes and Hippurites of the Cretaceous period have the same origin, and the *atolls* of Oceania are reproductions in our own day of precisely similar phenomena.

The invertebrate animals which characterise the Cretaceous age are among.

CEPHALOPODA.

Nautilus sublaevigatus and *N. Danicus*; *Ammonites rostratus*; *Belemnitella mucronata*.