

Lamellibranchiate molluscs, *Lima præcursor* very much resembles *Lima punctata* of the Lias; *Monotis decussata* occurs at the top in thin limestone bands, which some have considered to form part of the Lower Lias. *Ostrea fimbriata* may possibly be *O. irregularis* of the Lias, but oysters are so variable in form that they are of small value in such an inquiry. *Pecten Valoniensis*, also a Rhætic shell, is a very variable form. *Plicatula intusstriata* passes into the Lower Lias. *Anoplophora musculoides*, another Rhætic shell, occurs with *Monotis decussata* in the thin bands of limestone at the top, which some geologists call Lias. *Modiola minima* is found both in the Rhætic and Lower Lias strata. Figures of some other well known fossils are shown in fig. 34.

All the Gasteropoda of the Rhætic beds are said to be peculiar to that formation, and the same is the case with the fish; for, many years ago, Sir Philip Egerton declared 'that the beds in question, hitherto considered as belonging to the Lias, must be removed from that formation, inasmuch as they present a series of fishes not only specifically distinct from those of the Lias, but possess, in the Ganoid genera, the heterocerque tail, an organism confined to the fishes which existed anterior to the Lias.'¹ Of the Reptilia, *Plesiosaurus costatus*, *P. Hawkinsii*, *P. trigonus*, and, according to the late Mr. William Sanders, *Ichthyosaurus platyodon*, are common to these Rhætic beds, and to the basement beds of the Lower Lias. The discovery by Professor Boyd Dawkins of the small Marsupial mammal *Microlestes antiquus*, in the grey marls at Watchett, in Somersetshire, is not without significance, for it speaks

¹ 'A Notice on the Occurrence of Triassic Fishes in British Strata;' 'Proceedings of the Geological Society,' 1841, vol. iii., p. 409.