

Cretaceous. It will thus be convenient to confine ourselves in this chapter to the flora of the earlier Mesozoic.

Passing over for the present the cryptogamous plants already familiar in older deposits, we may notice the new features of gymnospermous and phænogamous life, as they present themselves in this earlier part of the great reptilian age, and as they extended themselves with remarkable uniformity in this period over all parts of the world. For it is a remarkable fact that, if we place together in our collections fossil plants of this period from Australia, India, China, Siberia, Europe, or even from Greenland, we find wonderfully little difference in their aspect. This uniformity we have already seen prevailed in the Palæozoic flora; and it is perhaps equally marked in that of the Mesozoic. Still we must bear in mind that some of the plants of these periods, as the ferns and pines,



FIG. 65.—*Podozamites lanceolatus*, Sternb.
L. Cretaceous.

for example, are still world-wide in their distribution; but this does not apply to others, more especially the cycads (Fig. 65).

The cycads constitute a singular and exceptional type in the modern world, and are limited at present to the warmer climates, though very generally distributed in these, as they occur in Africa, India,

Japan, Australia, Mexico, Florida, and the West Indies. In the Mesozoic age, however, they were world-wide in their distribution, and are found as far north as Greenland, though most of the species found in the Cretaceous