

plete, is the palæontological evidence, if we go further back into the Secondary or Mesozoic age, and look there for the older ancestors of the mammalian series. There we meet everywhere with wide gaps, and the scarce fragments of fossil Mesozoic mammals (excessively rare in the Cretaceous formation) are too poor to permit definite conclusions as to their systematic position. Indeed, comparative anatomy and ontogeny lead us to the hypothesis that the oldest Cretaceous Mammalia—the Prochoriata—are descended from Jurassic marsupials, and these again from Monotremes. We may also suppose with high probability that among the unknown Cretaceous Prochoriata there have been Lemuravida and forms intermediate between these and the Jurassic Amphitheriidæ, and that these marsupials in their turn are descendants of Pantotheria or similar monotreme-like creatures of the Triassic age. Any certain evidence for these hypotheses is at present still wanting. One important fact,